

Aids and  
Research  
Tools in  
Ancient  
Near  
Eastern  
Studies

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DANIEL C. SNELL

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*A WORKBOOK OF CUNEIFORM SIGNS*

Chicago  
Publications

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1979

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1079

Editor: Giorgio Buccellati

Mad Mind Archives  
Bringing Madness to Reason

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## Contents

Introduction . . . . .	i
Section One (Signs 1 through 75) . . .	1
Section Two (Signs 78 through 126) . .	19
Section Three (Signs 128 through 191). .	36
Section Four (Signs 205 through 318) .	54
Section Five (Signs 319 through 383) .	71
Section Six (Signs 384 through 457) .	90
Section Seven (Signs 461 through 554). .	108
Section Eight (Signs 556 through 595). .	122
Final Quiz . . . . .	134
Alphabetic List of Values . . . . .	137
List of Signs . . . . .	139

## Introduction

Peculiar recognition is the usual goal of learning cuneiform signs in Akkadian instruction in Europe and America. A method encouraging active use of the signs is presented here on the grounds that an active knowledge of the signs will stay longer with the student.

The idea for this workbook is taken from Japanese Kana Workbook by P. G. O'Neil (Palo Alto and Tokyo: Kodansha International, 1967), which I have found successful in teaching the Japanese syllabary. (1)

The signs to be taught were chosen on the basis of their frequency in Giorgio Buccellati's list of sign frequencies (2) in non-royal letters in F. R. Kraus' Altbabylonische Briefe. (3) I am much obliged to Buccellati and his students for this material and to him and Piotr Michalowski for other helpful comments. All signs presented here occur as more than 0.10% of that corpus. For simplicity only the more frequently attested values of the signs are taught here.

I have used Buccellati's list of sign frequencies because it is the only one available to me, but it does introduce a logical contradiction into this work: though the sign forms are Neo-Assyrian, the signs taught are chosen on the basis of a corpus from 1000 years earlier. This contradiction can be accepted on the grounds that the Old Babylonian period is in many ways regarded as a classical period both by the ancients who looked back to it for norms in various areas and also by moderns who frequently use its relatively simple syllabary and texts for beginning instruction in Akkadian. One might argue that it would have been valuable to present the signs in their Old Babylonian forms, but that would make it difficult for the beginner to consult the various manuals that are organized according to Neo-Assyrian sign forms.

This work is not, obviously, an original contribution to syllabary study, but merely a systematic way of learning some of the more frequently used signs. Ideally it should be used as part of a course with a teacher who will ask students to learn sign values and signs that will be of use to them in the readings planned. It should be used in conjunction with R. Labat's Manuel d'Epigraphie akkadienne (5th ed., Paris: Geuthner, 1976), which gives a more complete list of sign values from all periods of cuneiform writing as well as

the sign forms in the major periods. W. von Soden and W. Röllig's Das Akkadische Syllabar (3rd ed., Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1976) will also be useful in that it presents attestations for the syllabic values in various periods.

I would suggest that the student try to learn three or four signs a day and that he work on them every day for at least a short time so as not to lose the knowledge gained. The student should concentrate on the vocabulary which his teacher recommends and which occurs in the texts he is reading and not pay much attention to that used here. The point throughout this workbook is to learn the signs and not the vocabulary. It has not always been possible to use real words in the examples since, especially at the beginning, the student will not know enough signs. Though this practice may not be scientifically gratifying, there is good precedent for it. (4) In any case, it should be stressed that this manual is intended to teach the practice of recognizing the graphic structure of individual cuneiform signs, not the theory of the graphemic system; hence rare spellings or rare words, as well as sign configurations without lexical meaning, appear justifiable on pedagogical grounds. Note that an asterisk (\*) preceding a form given as an example shows that that particular spelling is not actually attested. The number before the first occurrence of the sign indicates its number in Labat's Manuel. (5)

At the end of the workbook one will find an alphabetical index of the values presented here, and there is an index to the signs in the order taught.

I owe a debt of thanks to the students in my beginning Akkadian class at the University of Washington in 1975-1976, and to those in the class of Benjamin Foster at Yale in the same year for their helpful criticisms. Patricia S. Gustafson's help has been important at several stages of the workbook's development, and I am thankful to her. A grant from the Connecticut College Faculty Research and Travel Fund supported the final typing of the manuscript, and the sympathetic support of that institution is deeply appreciated.

I present this workbook in memory of Clair John Snell, who always believed that an intelligent person with a good book could learn anything.

DCS  
New London, Connecticut  
May 1978

Notes  
to  
Introduction

(1) Compare S. Lieberman, The Sumerian Loanwords in Old-Babylonian Akkadian (HSS 22, Missoula: Scholars, 1977), esp. pp. 551-550, for a stimulating application of data on the Japanese writing system to cuneiform problems.

(2) Forthcoming in the series: Cybernetica Mesopotamica: Graphemic Categorization, Urdena Publications.




(3) (Leiden: Brill, 1964- ). The non-royal corpus was chosen because it is larger than the royal corpus. No attempt was made to compare the two.

(4) See the review of D. H. Roop, An Introduction to the Burmese Writing System (New Haven, 1972) JAOS 95,3 (1975) 536f by J. A. Matisoff. Matisoff observes, "This step-by-step presentation makes it necessary for Roop to use nonsense syllables to illustrate many consonant-vowel combinations. Far from being a defect . . ., this trains the student from the outset to view Burmese writing as a logical system that he can use productively. It encourages him to guess at the spelling of words he has heard but not yet seen written down."

(5) The order of the signs goes back apparently to Edwin Norris in 1868; see the note by K. Hocker, ZA 63 (1974) 305 n. 2. --Akkadian words in this workbook are underlined; Sumerian words, usually the logographic reading of the signs, are given all in capitals. A logogram is a sign that stands for an entire word. In Akkadian texts Sumerian words are frequently used to stand for their Akkadian equivalents.


Section One




This workbook is divided into boxes; in the boxes you are to write responses to questions, usually the English pronunciations, termed transliterations, of signs or the signs themselves. To the right of the next box below you will find the correct answer given. Instead of actually filling in the responses one could write responses on paper placed under the box and also covering the correct answer; then one could go through parts of the book several times without having to erase the answers.


The signs will be presented for ease of memory not in the order of our alphabet but in the order of their shapes. This is the order used in Assyriological manuals. The order is from horizontal  to  to vertical . Each part of the sign is ordered independently so that, for example, all signs that begin with a single wedge come before any that begin with two. Remembering the order of the signs is not important, but it may be useful to remember which signs look like others, how they differ and how they are alike.

Correct answers to questions asked in the larger box on the left above will be given in this column.



1 The first sign is pronounced aš. In Assyriology as in other language studies, š equals English sh as in ship. aš is written:  .  
Make the wedge first, then draw the line:

 is the usual sign in many periods for the syllable \_\_\_\_\_ .

 repeated

Carefully copy the sign for aš until you feel confident about remembering it.

aš

aš	aš	aš	aš	aš
aš	aš	aš	aš	aš

What does the symbol š stand for in English writing? \_\_\_\_\_

 repeated

sh

The second important sign begins with \_\_\_\_\_ wedge(s), following the convention that the several signs that begin with one wedge precede those that begin with two.

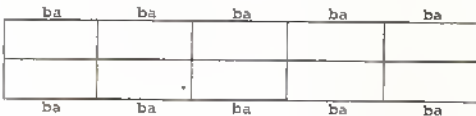
5 It is ba:  .

Copy it carefully, starting with the leftmost wedge and working to the right.





one

Practice ba until you can remember it.





Transliterate this Akkadian word:

  = \_\_\_\_\_



  
repeated

The sign aš is

The sign ba is


\*ba-aš  
'to be  
ashamed'  
(construct)





6 The sign zu is similar to ba, , but has two verticals instead of one:  .

Practice zu:

zu	zu	zu	zu	zu
zu	zu	zu	zu	zu

It is easy to confuse ba, , and zu,  .

  
repeated

The group of signs    means nothing, but it would be transliterated


Practice zu and ba until you feel confident you can tell them apart:

aš-ba-zu

zu	ba	zu	ba	zu
ba	zu	ba	zu	ba

  
repeated

13 The next sign is 𒀭, read DINGIR, the Sumerian word for 'god'. In Akkadian contexts this reading occurs as a determinative before names of gods; in transliteration it appears as a raised *d* before the gods' names. DINGIR also has a syllabic reading as the syllable *an*. Only context can determine whether the logographic or syllabic value is meant. Practice it until you think you can remember it: 𒀭, 𒀭𒀭, 𒀭𒀭𒀭.

DINGIR      DINGIR      DINGIR      DINGIR      DINGIR


DINGIR      DINGIR      DINGIR      DINGIR      DINGIR

Transliterate: 𒀭 𒀭 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 𒀭 𒀭 = \_\_\_\_\_

𒀭  
 repeated

Put into cuneiform: zu ba aš DINGIR

--	--	--	--

DINGIR ba  
 DINGIR zu  
 (no meanings)

Practice DINGIR.

DINGIR      DINGIR      DINGIR      DINGIR      DINGIR


DINGIR      DINGIR      DINGIR      DINGIR      DINGIR

𒀭 𒀭  
 𒀭 𒀭

𒀭  
 repeated

15 The next sign is ka: 𠄎𠄎𠄎 . Write it, as usual working from left to right. Note that the top line is not indented as in ba: 𠄎𠄎 versus 𠄎𠄎 . Try it: 𠄎 , 𠄎𠄎 , 𠄎𠄎𠄎 , 𠄎𠄎𠄎𠄎 .

ka	ka	ka	ka	ka
ka	ka	ka	ka	ka

Transliterate: 𠄎𠄎𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 𠄎𠄎𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎𠄎  
 repeated

Remember 𠄎𠄎 by its trailing 𠄎𠄎 unlike other signs we have seen. Practice it until you have some confidence with it:

ka	ka	ka	ka	ka
ka	ka	ka	ka	ka

ka-zu  
ka-ā  
 (both meaning-  
 less)

𠄎𠄎  
 repeated

55 The next sign is la: 𠄎. Note that it has three wedges following the initial one.  
Try it: 𠄎, 𠄎𠄎, 𠄎𠄎𠄎.

la	la	la	la	la
la	la	la	la	la

Transliterate: 𠄎𠄎𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_  
𠄎𠄎𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎  
repeated

Put into cuneiform: \*la-ba-as "may I not be put to shame"

ka-la  
'all'

ba-la-la  
'to mix'  
(accusative)

--	--	--

Put into cuneiform: zu-la-an (no meaning)

𠄎𠄎𠄎

--	--	--

Practice la until you feel confident about it; draw the wedge first for each line.

𠄎𠄎𠄎

la	la	la	la	la
la	la	la	la	la

𠄎  
repeated

58 The next sign, tu, 𠄎, begins like la, 𠄎, but has another 𠄎 above and behind it. Try tu: 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎.

tu	tu	tu	tu	tu
tu	tu	tu	tu	tu

Put into cuneiform:

ka-tu 'weak'

\*la-zu 'laating'

𠄎  
repeated

--	--

--	--

Transliterate:

𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎  
and  
𠄎 𠄎

Practice tu until you gain some confidence with it. The next sign is similar to it, so it would be well to get tu in mind before going on.

tu	tu	tu	tu	tu
tu	tu	tu	tu	tu

tu-ba  
(no meaning)  
\*ka-la-as  
"all of it"

𠄎  
repeated

59 The next sign differs from tu, 𠂇, in that it has another vertical and also in that the top horizontal has a tail. The sign is li, 𠂇. Try it: 𠂇, 𠂇, 𠂇, 𠂇, 𠂇.

li	li	li	li	li
li	li	li	li	li

Put into cuneiform:

li-la-tu 'night'

ba-li (no meaning)

𠂇  
repeated

--	--	--	--	--

'Transliterate:'

𠂇 𠂇 𠂇

𠂇 𠂇

𠂇 𠂇 𠂇  
𠂇 𠂇


Practice li until you gain some confidence with it. Be sure to keep it distinct in your mind from tu.

li	tu	li	tu	li
li	li	li	li	li

li-ba-aš  
(no meaning)  
\*li-tu  
'victory'

𠂇 𠂇  
repeated



61 The mu sign is . Though simpler than tu and li, it is perhaps harder to make because the trailing wedges are at an angle.

Practice it: , , , .

mu	mu	mu	mu	mu
mu	mu	mu	mu	mu

Transliterate:

  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

la-ba-mu (no meaning)

zu-mu (no meaning)

--	--	--

--	--

mu-tu  
'husband'  
ka-la-mu  
'everything'

Practice mu until you feel some confidence with it:

mu	mu	mu	mu	mu
mu	mu	mu	mu	mu

  
repeated

62 The next sign is qa, 𠄎. Though it resembles ba, 𠄎, one can remember that it is simpler than ba and has one wedge at an angle. Try it: 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎.

qa	qa	qa	qa	qa
qa	qa	qa	qa	qa

Transliterate: 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎

repeated

Put into cuneiform: \*qa-la-la 'to be light'  
(accusative)

aš-ba-qa

qa-zu-mu

(no meaning)

--	--	--

Also put into cuneiform: qa-tu 'hand'

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

--	--

Practice qa. Be sure to keep it distinct in your mind from ba.

𠄎 𠄎

qa	ba	qa	ba	qa
qa	qa	qa	qa	qa

𠄎 𠄎

repeated

68 The next sign is ru, 𠄎 . Draw the horizontal first, then the verticals, then stick in the two diagonal wedges: 一, 𠄎, 𠄎 . Try it:

ru	ru	ru	ru	ru
ru	ru	ru	ru	ru

Transliterate: 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎  
 repeated

Put into cuneiform:

ba-ga-ru  
 'to start a law suit'

ag-ru 'place'

--	--	--

--	--

ru-tu  
 'wife'  
ru-ba  
 'noble'  
 (accusative)

Practice ru:

ru	ru	ru	ru	ru
ru	ru	ru	ru	ru

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎  
 一 𠄎

𠄎  
 repeated

69 The next sign to learn is the sign be,

Try it: 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎.

be      be      be      be      be


be      be      be      be      be

Be should be distinguished from 𠄎, which is read \_\_\_\_\_ and which has no tail.

𠄎 repeated

Transliterate: 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_ aš  
 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

Write in cuneiform:

be-li 'my lord'

be-ru '(distance  
 measure of more than  
 10 kilometers)'

be-la  
 'lord'  
 (accusative)  
ru-be  
 'nobles'

--	--

--	--

Practice be and aš to make sure you can keep them apart in your mind.

𠄎 𠄎  
 𠄎 𠄎

be      aš      be      aš      be


be      be      be      be      be

𠄎 𠄎 repeated

70 The next sign is na, 𠄎, written 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎. Practice na; one might think of it as be plus part of ga:

na	na	na	na	na
na	na	na	na	na

Transliterate: 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

na-ru 'stele'

An-tu '(a goddess)'

--	--

--	--

na-qa  
'to offer'  
(accusative)  
ka-la-na  
(no meaning)

Practice na until you feel sure of it.

na	na	na	na	na
na	na	na	na	na

𠄎 𠄎  
𠄎 𠄎

𠄎  
repeated

73 The next important sign is ti, 𐎛𐎠, which starts like be: 𐎠𐎹, 𐎠𐎺, 𐎠𐎻, and has a wedge on the other side of its vertical in contrast to na, 𐎠𐎡. Try it:

ti	ti	ti	ti	ti
ti	ti	ti	ti	ti

Transliterate:

𐎠𐎡 𐎠𐎻 𐎠𐎺

𐎠𐎡 𐎠𐎺 𐎠𐎻

𐎠𐎻

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

mu-ti 'my husband'

ba-ga-ru-ti  
(no meaning)

ga-ti-ka  
'of your hand'

ba-la-ti  
'of the life'

Keep ti distinct from na:

ti	na	ti	na	ti
ti	ti	ti	ti	ti

𐎠𐎡 𐎠𐎻

𐎠𐎡 𐎠𐎡  
𐎠𐎡 𐎠𐎡

𐎠𐎡 𐎠𐎡

repeated

75 The next sign is nu, which is as plus a cross stroke running from below to above it:  .

Try it:

nu	nu	nu	nu	nu
nu	nu	nu	nu	nu

Transliterate:  = \_\_\_\_\_  
 = \_\_\_\_\_

  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

ba-nu 'to build'

an-nu 'this'

--	--

--	--

zu-nu  
as-nu-ka  
 (no meaning!)

Practice nu until you feel sure of it.

nu	nu	nu	nu	nu
nu	nu	nu	nu	nu


On the next page is a quiz on all the signs studied so far. Write the signs in the appropriate boxes and turn to the next page for the answers.

  
repeated

## Section One

## QUIZ

1. ti

2. ađ

3. li

4. nu

5. nu

6. la

7. qa

8. DINGIR

9. be

10. ba

11. na

12. tu

13. ka

14. zu

15. ru



## ANSWERS

1. ti



2. aš



3. li



4. nu



5. nu



6. la



7. qa



8. DINGIR



9. be



10. ba



11. na



12. tu



13. ka



14. zu



15. ru



If you forgot one sign, practice it below and then go on.  
 If you forgot more than one, go back to the sections in which  
 the signs were presented and work through them again; then go  
 on to page 19.

Sign \_\_\_\_\_ :

--	--	--	--	--	--

Section Two

78 The next sign is hu, 呼, which starts like be: 𠵼, 𠵼, 𠵼. The symbol h is used to indicate a sound like German ch in Buch or Scottish ch as in loch. Try hu

hu	hu	hu	hu	hu
hu	hu	hu	hu	hu

Transliterate: 呼 呼 = \_\_\_\_\_ 呼  
呼 呼 = \_\_\_\_\_ repeated

Put into cuneiform:

na-hu 'to rest'

zu-hu (no meaning)

\*hu-ha  
(meaning  
unknown)

--	--

--	--

la-hu  
'jaw'

Practice hu:

hu	hu	hu	hu	hu
hu	hu	hu	hu	hu

呼 呼

呼 呼

呼  
repeated

79 The next sign is nam, 𠄎𠄎𠄎, which begins like bu, 𠄎𠄎, but adds four wedges after:

𠄎𠄎𠄎 . Try it:

nam	nam	nam	nam	nam
nam	nam	nam	nam	nam

Put into cuneiform:

ba-nam  
(meaningless)

nam-ka  
(meaningless)

--	--

--	--

𠄎𠄎𠄎

repeated

Transliterate:

𠄎𠄎 𠄎𠄎𠄎 𠄎𠄎𠄎

=

\_\_\_\_\_

𠄎𠄎𠄎 𠄎𠄎

=

\_\_\_\_\_

𠄎𠄎 𠄎𠄎𠄎

𠄎𠄎𠄎 𠄎𠄎

Practice nam until you feel sure of it. Be sure to keep it separate in your mind from bu.

zu-ka-nam  
(no meaning)

nam-ru  
'shining'


nam	bu	nam	bu	nam
nam	nam	nam	nam	nam



𠄎𠄎𠄎 𠄎𠄎

repeated

80 The next sign is ik, iq, which begins with hu but adds only two wedges: . Try it:

ik	ik	ik	ik	ik
ik	ik	ik	ik	ik

Transliterate:  = \_\_\_\_\_

   = \_\_\_\_\_



repeated

Put into cuneiform:

\*iq-qa-aš 'it was given'      ik-mu "they bound"

\*iq-be  
'he said'

ik-ru-ba  
'he prayed'


Practice ik and be sure to keep it separate in your mind from nam.

ik	nam	ik	nam	ik
ik	ik	ik	ik	ik

repeated

84 The sign zi, 子, begins a new series of shapes. Note especially the arrangement of its last three wedges: 丿, 冫, 冫, 冫. Try it:

zi	zi	zi	zi	zi
zi	zi	zi	zi	zi

Transliterate: 子 子 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 子 子 = \_\_\_\_\_

子  
 repeated

Put into cuneiform:

ba-zi-iq  
 (no meaning)

li-zi-ka  
 (no meaning)


zi-mu  
 'face'

\*zi-tu  
 'share'

Practice zi:

zi	zi	zi	zi	zi
zi	zi	zi	zi	zi

子 子 子  
 子 子 子

子  
 repeated

85 The next sign, gi, 𐎡𐎢, is easily confused with zi, 𐎠𐎢. Note that the final element in zi is open just as the letter z is open, while that in gi 𐎢 is closed like g. Try gi:

gi	gi	gi	gi	gi
gi	gi	gi	gi	gi

Transliterate: 𐎢𐎠 𐎠𐎢 = \_\_\_\_\_ 𐎢𐎠  
 𐎢𐎢 𐎢𐎠 = \_\_\_\_\_ repeated

Put into cuneiform:

aš-gi (no meaning)      ru-qa-tu 'distant ones'

--	--	--	--	--	--

gi-na  
 "regular offering"  
 (accusative)  
zi-gi  
 (no meaning)

Practice zi and gi.

gi	zi	gi	zi	gi
gi	gi	gi	gi	gi

𐎠 𐎢𐎠  
 𐎠𐎢 𐎢𐎠

𐎢𐎠 𐎢𐎢  
 repeated

86 The next sign, ri, re, 𐑖𐑦𐑦, resembles bu, 𐑖𐑦, but has one more vertical before the diagonal wedge: 𐑖𐑦, 𐑖𐑦𐑦, 𐑖𐑦𐑦𐑦, 𐑖𐑦𐑦𐑦𐑦. Try it:

ri	ri	ri	ri	ri
ri	ri	ri	ri	ri

Transliterate:

𐑖𐑦𐑦 𐑖𐑦𐑦𐑦 𐑖𐑦𐑦𐑦𐑦 = \_\_\_\_\_

𐑖𐑦𐑦𐑦 𐑖𐑦𐑦𐑦𐑦𐑦 = \_\_\_\_\_

𐑖𐑦𐑦

repeated

Put into cunelform:

ri-ga-tu 'empty ones'

ka-ri 'of a quay'

--	--	--

--	--

ri-bu-tu  
"offspring"

na-ri-ka  
'of your  
stele'

Practice ri. Be sure to keep it distinct in your mind from bu.



ri	bu	ri	bu	ri
ri	ri	ri	ri	ri

𐑖𐑦𐑦 𐑖𐑦𐑦𐑦






𐑖𐑦𐑦𐑦 𐑖𐑦𐑦

𐑖𐑦𐑦 𐑖𐑦𐑦

repeated

94 The next sign is tim, . It begins somewhat like ri, , but has a wedge at the foot of the first vertical and then three slanting wedges forming a triangle.

Try it:  ,  ,  ,  .

tim	tim	tim	tim	tim
				
tim	tim	tim	tim	tim

Transliterate:   = \_\_\_\_\_   
  = \_\_\_\_\_ repeated

Put into cuneiform:

tim-mu  
'empaling stake'

\*ba-nu-tim  
'of beauty'

zu-tim  
(no meaning)  
ga-tim  
'of a hand'

				
---	---	---	---	---



Practice tim until you feel sure of it:

tim	tim	tim	tim	tim
				
tim	tim	tim	tim	tim





   
  

  
repeated



97 The next sign is ak, aq, ag, . It resembles ka, , though only superficially.

Try ak: , , , , 

ak	ak	ak	ak	ak
				
ak	ak	ak	ak	ak

Transliterate:   = \_\_\_\_\_  
  = \_\_\_\_\_

  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

\*aq-be 'I said'






ag-nu (no meaning)

	
---	---

	
---	---

ag-ru  
'hired man'  
ag-gi  
'of an angry one'

Be sure to keep ak and ka distinct in your mind.

ak	ka	ak	ka	ak
				
ak	ak	ak	ak	ak

   
repeated

99 The next sign is en, 𒂗, written 𒂗  
𒂗, 𒂗. Try it:

en	en	en	en	en
en	en	en	en	en

Transliterate:

𒂗 𒂗 = \_\_\_\_\_  
𒂗 𒂗 = \_\_\_\_\_

𒂗  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

en-ka-li-ga  
(no meaning)

	en-mu (no meaning)		
--	-----------------------	--	--




en-tu  
'(type of  
priestess)'  
aš-li-en  
(no meaning)

Practice en. Be sure to keep it distinct in  
your mind from bu.

en	bu	en	bu	en
en	en	en	en	en

𒂗 𒂗  
𒂗 𒂗  
𒂗 𒂗

𒂗 𒂗  
repeated

104 The next sign is sa,  , written  ,  . Be sure to indent the top horizontal, or sa will look like ix, a sign to be learned later. Try sa:

sa	sa	sa	sa	sa
sa	sa	sa	sa	sa

Transliterate:

  = \_\_\_\_\_

   = \_\_\_\_\_

 repeated

Put into cuneiform:

sa-bu (no meaning)

la-sa-mu 'to run'

--	--

--	--	--






\*qa-sa  
'her hand'  
\*sa-na-qa  
'to check'  
(accusative)






Practice sa.


sa	sa	sa	sa	sa
sa	sa	sa	sa	sa

 repeated

IDS The next sign is IKU, , a logogram for an area measure, with the Akkadian equivalent iku. It is exactly like sa, , except that it has a final vertical I. Try it: , , .

IKU	IKU	IKU	IKU	IKU
				
IKU	IKU	IKU	IKU	IKU

With IKU the sign an, , stands for the number one. The an may be repeated up to five times to express the numbers one through five. Transliterate:

  = \_\_\_\_\_  
  = \_\_\_\_\_

 repeated

Put into cuneiform:

3 IKU

5 IKU

	
--	---

	
---	---

1 IKU  
4 IKU



Practice IKU and sa.

IKU sa IKU sa IKU

				
IKU	IKU	IKU	IKU	IKU


   
 

  repeated

lii The next sign is GUR, , a logogram for a volume measure. The Akkadian equivalent is kurru. GUR somewhat resembles IKU, , but it has no interior verticals and two on the end.

Try it: , , , .

GUR	GUR	GUR	GUR	GUR
GUR	GUR	GUR	GUR	GUR

With GUR the sign ad, , stands for the number one. The ad may be repeated up to nine times to express the numbers one through nine.

Transliterate:

  = \_\_\_\_\_

  = \_\_\_\_\_

  
repeated

Put into cuneiforms:

5 GUR

9 GUR

--	--

--	--

1 GUR  
7 GUR

Practice GUR until you feel sure of it.

GUR	GUR	GUR	GUR	GUR
GUR	GUR	GUR	GUR	GUR

  
repeated

112 The next sign is si, ਸ਼, which is exactly like GUR, ਗੁਰ, except that the top horizontal is longer in si.

Try it: ਸ਼, ਸ਼, ਸ਼, ਸ਼.

si	si	si	si	si
si	si	si	si	si

Transliterate:

ਸ਼ ਸ਼

= \_\_\_\_\_

ਸ਼ ਸ਼ ਸ਼ ਸ਼

= \_\_\_\_\_

ਸ਼

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

ag-si-tu  
(no meaning)

si-ga-ru  
(no meaning)


si-2n  
(no meaning)

si-si-ik-tn  
'hem'

Practice si until you feel some confidence with it. Be sure to keep it distinct in your mind from GUR.

si	GUR	si	GUR	si
si	si	si	si	si

ਸ਼ ਗੁਰ ਸ਼

ਸ਼ ਗੁਰ ਸ਼

ਸ਼ ਸ਼

repeated

115 The next sign is SAG, 𒊕, a logogram for 'head, top', with the Akkadian equivalent rešū. Its first element is si, 𒊕, and its second is pa, 𒊕, a sign to be learned later.  
Try it: 𒊕, 𒊕, 𒊕, 𒊕.

SAG	SAG	SAG	SAG	SAG
SAG	SAG	SAG	SAG	SAG

Transliterate:

𒊕 𒊕 𒊕 = \_\_\_\_\_

𒊕 𒊕 = \_\_\_\_\_

𒊕

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

SAG eg(-ik)-li  
'top part of a field'

--	--	--

SAG mu-tim  
'husband's head'

SAG-ka  
'your head'

Practice SAG until you feel sure of it.

SAG	SAG	SAG	SAG	SAG
SAG	SAG	SAG	SAG	SAG

𒊕 𒊕

𒊕

𒊕

repeated

126 The next sign is šum, 𒍪, written  
 𒍪, 𒍪, 𒍪. Try it:

šum	šum	šum	šum	šum
šum	šum	šum	šum	šum

Transliterate:

𒍪 𒍪 𒍪

= \_\_\_\_\_

𒍪 𒍪

= \_\_\_\_\_

𒍪

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

\*nu-šum 'a plant'

\*na-šum 'to carry'

--	--

--	--

šum-mu-šu

'very  
luxuriant'

\*šum-ru  
'wildness'

Practice šum until you feel sure of it.

šum	šum	šum	šum	šum
šum	šum	šum	šum	šum

𒍪 𒍪

𒍪 𒍪

On the next page is a quiz on all the signs  
 studied so far.

𒍪

repeated



## Section Two

## QUIZ

1. zi

2. aš

3. SAG

4. ka

5. sa

6. tim

7. IKU

8. ba

9. ri

10. ti

11. nam

12. si

13. ak

14. hu

15. DINGIR

16. ik

17. li

18. nu

19. šum

20. mu

21. gi

22. tu

23. en

24. na

25. qa

26. GUR

27. ru

28. zu

29. la

30. be

## ANSWERS

1. 开 2. 丁 3. 开 4. 开 5. 开  
 6. 开 7. 开 8. 开 9. 开 10. 开  
 11. 开 12. 开 13. 开 14. 开 15. 开  
 16. 开 17. 开 18. 开 19. 开 20. 开  
 21. 开 22. 开 23. 开 24. 开 25. 开  
 26. 开 27. 开 28. 开 29. 开 30. 开

If you forgot one sign, practice it here and then go on to Section Three. If you forgot more than one, go back to the places where they were first presented and work through the parts dealing with them; then go on to Section Three.

Sign \_\_\_\_\_ :

--	--	--	--	--	--

## Section Three

128 The next sign is ab, ap, 𠄎 . It begins exactly like šum, 𠄎 , but instead of a diagonal it has a vertical at the end.

Try it: 𠄎 , 𠄎 , 𠄎 .

ab	ab	ab	ab	ab
ab	ab	ab	ab	ab

Put into cuneiform:

ba-ab-tu 'city quarter'

ap-tu 'window'

--	--	--

--	--

𠄎  
repeated

Transliterate:

𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_







𠄎 𠄎 𠄎  
𠄎 𠄎

Practice ab and be sure to keep it distinct in your mind from šum.

ab	šum	ab	šum	ab
ab	ab	ab	ab	ab

ab-be  
'fathers'  
\*la-ab-ba-aš-tu  
'dressed'

𠄎 𠄎  
repeated

130 The next sign, uk, uq, ug, , begins like ab but has two elements inscribed. The last element in uk is , the sign UTU, to be learned later. Its presence may be a memory aid to remind scribes that uk, like UTU, begins with the sound u. Try uk: , , , .

uk	uk	uk	uk	uk
				
uk	uk	uk	uk	uk

Transliterate:

   = \_\_\_\_\_

   = \_\_\_\_\_



repeated

Put into cuneiform:

hu-uk-mu  
(no meaning)

		
---	---	---

tu-uk-ka-an-nu 'bag'

				
--	---	---	---	---

nu-uk-zu

(no meaning)

ru-uq-tu

'far'

(feminine)

Practice uk until you feel sure of it.

uk	uk	uk	uk	uk
				
uk	uk	uk	uk	uk



  




  



repeated

131 The sign as, az, as, , is exactly like uk except for the last interior element. This element is the sign sa, , which will be learned later; it may have been put in as to remind scribes that the sounds which as represented also included a sound s. (s is the transliteration for a sybillant conventionally pronounced as if it were English ts.)

Try as: , ,  .

as	as	as	as	as
as	as	as	as	as

Transliterate:

   = \_\_\_\_\_

     = \_\_\_\_\_



repeated

ga-as-ru

li-ik-ka-as

(no meanings)

Put into cuneiform:

as-nu-uk (no meaning)

--	--	--

\*ik-ka-ab-ba-as 'he walks in'

--	--	--	--	--

Practice as and uk until you are sure of them.

as	uk	as	uk	as
as	as	as	as	as

𒀭 𒀭 𒀭

𒀭 𒀭

𒀭 𒀭 𒀭

𒀭 𒀭

repeated

134 The next sign, um, 𐎠𐎢𐎡, again begins more or less like ab, 𐎠𐎡, but has three final verticals instead of one: 𐎠𐎢𐎡, 𐎠𐎢𐎡, 𐎠𐎢𐎡. Try um.

um	um	um	um	um
um	um	um	um	um

Transliterate:

𐎠𐎢𐎡 𐎠𐎢𐎡 𐎠𐎢𐎡  
𐎠𐎢𐎡 𐎠𐎢𐎡 𐎠𐎢𐎡

= \_\_\_\_\_

= \_\_\_\_\_

𐎠𐎢𐎡  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

ba-nu-um  
'well-formed'

qa-tu-um  
'hand'


um-mu-um  
'mother'

na-ak-ru-um  
'stranger'

Practice um, as, and uk.

um	as	uk	um	as
uk	um	as	uk	um
as	uk	um	as	uk

𐎠𐎢𐎡 𐎠𐎢𐎡  
𐎠𐎢𐎡 𐎠𐎢𐎡

𐎠𐎢𐎡 𐎠𐎢𐎡  
𐎠𐎢𐎡  
repeated

139 The next sign is ta, 𠄎. Like um, 𠄎 it ends in three verticals but begins differently: 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎. Try it:

ta	ta	ta	ta	ta
ta	ta	ta	ta	ta

Transliterate:

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

" \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

" \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

sa-na-ak-ta (no meaning)

--	--	--	--

\*ik-ta-ru-ba 'he then prayed'

--	--	--	--

ta-aš-ba  
'you became satisfied'

ta-la-ab-ba-aš  
(no meaning)

Practice ta and um until you feel sure you can tell them apart.

ta	um	ta	um	ta
ta	ta	ta	ta	ta

𠄎 𠄎  
𠄎 𠄎  
𠄎 𠄎  
𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎  
repeated



142 The next sign, 𠄎, has no verticals:  
𠄎, 𠄎. Try it:

1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1

Transliterate:

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

1-ta-mu 'they say'

1-li 'my god'

--	--	--	--

--	--

1-ba-ga-ru  
'they start  
a law suit'

\*1-na-ab-ba  
'he calls'

Practice 1 until you feel sure of it.

1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎

𠄎

repeated

142a The next sign is ia, 𠄎, which is simply a combination of i, 𠄎, and a, 𠄎, a sign to be learned later.

Try it: 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎.

ia	ia	ia	ia	ia
ia	ia	ia	ia	ia

Transliterate:

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

"

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

"

𠄎

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

ia-nu 'it is not'

ia-mu-tu 'each'

--	--

--	--	--

be-li-ia  
'of my  
lord'

\*ru-ti-ia  
'of my spittle'

Practice ia until you feel sure of it. Keep it distinct in your mind from i.

ia	i	ia	i	ia
ia	ia	ia	ia	ia

𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎

repeated

144 The next sign is DUMU, 𒌦, a legogram meaning 'son', with the Akkadian translation māru. It is exactly like i, 𒌪, except that it has a vertical wedge inserted at the rear.

Try it: 𒌦, 𒌦, 𒌦.

DUMU	DUMU	DUMU	DUMU	DUMU
DUMU	DUMU	DUMU	DUMU	DUMU

Transliterate:

𒌦 𒌦 𒌦

= \_\_\_\_\_

𒌦 𒌦 𒌦

= \_\_\_\_\_

𒌦

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

DUMU ru-be 'nobleman'

--	--	--

i-na DUMU-ka 'in your son'

--	--	--	--

\*DUMU mu-ti  
'husband's  
son'

DUMU ba-nu-tu  
'member of  
the nobility'?

Practice DUMU and be sure to keep it distinct in your mind from i:

DUMU      i      DUMU      i      DUMU


DUMU      DUMU      DUMU      DUMU      DUMU

𒌦 𒌦 𒌦

𒌦 𒌦

𒌦 𒌦

𒌦 𒌦

repeated

145 At, ad. 𠄎, begins like i, 𠄎, but has a final vertical: 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎. Try it:

at	at	at	at	at
at	at	at	at	at

Transliterate:

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

i-ta-ad-nu (no meaning)

--	--	--	--

aš-ba-at 'I got'

--	--	--

at-tu-nu  
'you'  
(plural)

\*at-mu  
'to  
discuss'

Practice at to distinguish it from ab.

at	ab	at	ab	at
at	at	at	at	at

𠄎 𠄎  
𠄎 𠄎  
𠄎 𠄎  
𠄎

𠄎 𠄎

repeated

147 The next sign is gi, 𠄎, which is at.  
 𠄎, plus another vertical. Try it:

gi	gi	gi	gi	gi
gi	gi	gi	gi	gi

Transliterate:

𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎  
 repeated

Put into cuneiform:

gi-ru 'extraordinary'

gi-nu 'evil'

--	--

--	--

tu-si  
 'you went  
 out'

gi-i-tu  
 'going out'

Practice gi to keep it distinct in your mind  
 from at.

gi	at	gi	at	gi
gi	gi	gi	gi	gi

𠄎 𠄎  
 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎  
 repeated

148 The next sign is in, 𠄎, written 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎. Try it:

in	in	in	in	in
in	in	in	in	in

Transliterate:

𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

ti-in-nu (no meaning)

--	--	--

si-in-tu (no meaning)

--	--	--

in-ba

'fruit'

(accusative)

in-hu

'suffering'

Practice in until you are sure of it.

in	in	in	in	in
in	in	in	in	in

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎

repeated

152 The next sign is šar, 𐎲, which begins with two horizontals and somewhat resembles ka, 𐎧, at the end. Try it: 𐎲, 𐎲, 𐎲, 𐎲.

šar	šar	šar	šar	šar
šar	šar	šar	šar	šar

Transliterate:

𐎲 𐎲 𐎲 = \_\_\_\_\_

𐎲 𐎲 𐎲 = \_\_\_\_\_

𐎲

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

šar-ri-ru  
'stooping'

\*ḫu-šar  
'hematite' (?)  
(absolute state)

šar-ru-tu  
'kingship'

i-šar-tu  
'righteousness'

--	--	--

--	--

Practice šar until you feel sure of it. Keep it distinct in your mind from ka.

šar	ka	šar	ka	šar
šar	šar	šar	šar	šar

𐎲 𐎧 𐎲

𐎲 𐎲

𐎲 𐎲

repeated

170 The next sign is am, 𠄎, written 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎. Try it:

am	am	am	am	am
am	am	am	am	am

Transliterate:

𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

\*iq-be-am 'he said to me'

--	--	--

am-na-am 'I counted out'

--	--	--

am-si  
'I washed'  
am-la-am  
'rope'  
(accusative)

Practice am.

am	am	am	am	am
am	am	am	am	am

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎  
𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎  
repeated



172 The next sign is bí, 𒁀𒀭 . The acute accent on the bí shows that this sign is the second in theoretical frequency in signs that are read bí. A grave accent, ` , would show a sign is third in frequency. After that subscribed numbers are used to distinguish signs in transliteration, like bí<sub>5</sub>.

Bí is composed of am, 𒀭 , plus GIŠ, 𒀭 , a sign to be learned later.

Try bí: 𒁀 , 𒁀𒀭 , 𒁀𒀭𒀭 , 𒁀𒀭𒀭𒀭 .

bí	bí	bí	bí	bí
bí	bí	bí	bí	bí

Transliterate:

𒁀𒀭𒀭𒀭 = \_\_\_\_\_

𒁀𒀭𒀭𒀭 = \_\_\_\_\_

𒁀𒀭

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

mu-šar-bí 'increaser of ...'      \*qa-bí 'is said'

--	--	--

--	--

\*bí-ri-ti  
'of an  
alley'

\*iq-bí  
'he said'

Practice bí and am.

bí	am	bí	am	bí
bí	bí	bí	bí	bí

𒁀𒀭𒀭𒀭

𒁀𒀭𒀭

𒁀𒀭𒀭  
repeated

191 The next sign is kum, 𠄎, composed of one ak, 𠄎, and three be's, 𠄎. Try it: 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎.

kum	kum	kum	kum	kum
kum	kum	kum	kum	kum

Transliterate:

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

\*sa-ka-kum 'to obstruct'      \*šar-kum 'puss'


\*ta-ba-kum  
'to pour  
out'

\*la-kum  
'suckling'

Practice kum until you are sure of it.

kum	kum	kum	kum	kum
kum	kum	kum	kum	kum

𠄎 𠄎

𠄎

𠄎 𠄎

On the next page is a quiz over all the signs studied so far.

𠄎

repeated

## Section Three

## QUIZ

1. ak	2. tu	3. kum	4. ia	5. be
6. li	7. SAG	8. qa	9. zu	10. ru
11. sa	12. in	13. zi	14. tim	15. ik
16. šum	17. ta	18. DUMU	19. šar	20. uk
21. gi	22. DINGIR	23. bí	24. ri	25. bu
26. la	27. si	28. GUR	29. l	30. at
31. am	32. ti	33. ab	34. nu	35. an
36. na	37. ka	38. um	39. si	40. mu
41. nam	42. ba	43. ad	44. en	45. IRU

## ANSWERS

- |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. 𠄎  | 2. 𠄎  | 3. 𠄎  | 4. 𠄎  | 5. 𠄎  |
| 6. 𠄎  | 7. 𠄎  | 8. 𠄎  | 9. 𠄎  | 10. 𠄎 |
| 11. 𠄎 | 12. 𠄎 | 13. 𠄎 | 14. 𠄎 | 15. 𠄎 |
| 16. 𠄎 | 17. 𠄎 | 18. 𠄎 | 19. 𠄎 | 20. 𠄎 |
| 21. 𠄎 | 22. 𠄎 | 23. 𠄎 | 24. 𠄎 | 25. 𠄎 |
| 26. 𠄎 | 27. 𠄎 | 28. 𠄎 | 29. 𠄎 | 30. 𠄎 |
| 31. 𠄎 | 32. 𠄎 | 33. 𠄎 | 34. 𠄎 | 35. 𠄎 |
| 36. 𠄎 | 37. 𠄎 | 38. 𠄎 | 39. 𠄎 | 40. 𠄎 |
| 41. 𠄎 | 42. 𠄎 | 43. 𠄎 | 44. 𠄎 | 45. 𠄎 |

If you forgot a sign, practice it here and then go on to Section Four. If you forgot more than one, go back to the parts where they were presented and do the exercises for those signs. Then go on to Section Four.

Sign \_\_\_\_\_ :

--	--	--	--	--	--

Section Four

205 The next sign is il, 𒄿, made 𒄿  
 𒄿, 𒄿, 𒄿. Try it:

<u>il</u>	<u>il</u>	<u>il</u>	<u>il</u>	<u>il</u>
<u>il</u>	<u>il</u>	<u>il</u>	<u>il</u>	<u>il</u>

Transliterate:

𒄿 𒄿 𒄿 = \_\_\_\_\_

𒄿 𒄿 𒄿 = \_\_\_\_\_

𒄿

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

il-li 'of a special one'

--	--

il-ka  
 'service performed'  
 (accusative)

--	--

il-la-ak

'he goes'

li-il-qa

'let him  
 take'

Remember that il has two verticals as well as  
 two diagonals. Practice il:

<u>il</u>	<u>il</u>	<u>il</u>	<u>il</u>	<u>il</u>
<u>il</u>	<u>il</u>	<u>il</u>	<u>il</u>	<u>il</u>

𒄿 𒄿 𒄿

𒄿 𒄿 𒄿

𒄿

repeated

206 du, 𠄎, is il, 𠄎, without the two diagonals and with only one vertical: 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎. Try it:

du	du	du	du	du
du	du	du	du	du

Transliterate: 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

du-ru 'wall'

qa-du 'with'

--	--

--	--

du-um  
'it is very dark'

mu-du  
'expert'

Practice du and il until you feel sure of them.

du	il	du	il	du
du	du	du	du	du

𠄎 𠄎  
𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎  
repeated

207 The next sign is tum, 𠄎. It begins somewhat like du, 𠄎, but ends in four horizontals. Try it: 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎.

tum	tum	tum	tum	tum
tum	tum	tum	tum	tum

Transliterate:

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

šar-tum 'hair'

--	--

\*si-si-ik-tum 'hem'

--	--	--	--

\*zi-ik-ru-tum  
'heroism'

du-mu-ug-  
tum 'good  
luck'

Practice tum until you feel sure of it.

tum	tum	tum	tum	tum
tum	tum	tum	tum	tum

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎  
𠄎

𠄎

repeated

211 The next sign is uš, 𒍪 : 𒍪 , 𒍪 . Try it:

uš	uš	uš	uš	uš
uš	uš	uš	uš	uš

Transliterate:

𒍪 𒍪 𒍪 𒍪 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 𒍪 𒍪 𒍪 𒍪 = \_\_\_\_\_

𒍪  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

uš-ba 'he sat'

<sup>\*du-uš-mi</sup>  
'house-born slave'

--	--	--	--	--

ru-uš-ti  
'of fine oil'  
\*ga-aš-tu-uš  
'his bow'






Practice uš until you feel sure of it.

uš	uš	uš	uš	uš
uš	uš	uš	uš	uš

𒍪 𒍪  
𒍪 𒍪 𒍪

𒍪  
repeated



212 The next sign, iš, , resembles uš, , but lacks the two interior verticals and has two at the end: , , . Try it:

iš	iš	iš	iš	iš
				
iš	iš	iš	iš	iš

Transliterate:

  = \_\_\_\_\_  
   = \_\_\_\_\_

 repeated

Put into cuneiform:

\*iš-ta-mu  
 'they listen to each other'

		
---	---	---

iš-ka-ru  
 'assigned work'

		
---	---	---

iš-tu  
 'from'  
li-iš-mu  
 'let them hear'

Practice iš and uš until you feel sure you can tell them apart.

iš	uš	iš	uš	iš
				
iš	iš	iš	iš	iš


 repeated

214 The next sign bi, 𠄎, is composed of two be's, 𠄎. Try it: 𠄎, 𠄎.

bi	bi	bi	bi	bi
bi	bi	bi	bi	bi

Transliterate:

𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

bi-ri-tim 'of an alley'      \*aš-bi  
 'of an inhabitant'

--	--	--	--	--

bi-tu  
'house'  
in-bi-ka  
'of your  
fruit'

Bi is a simple sign; the only problem with it is to keep it distinct in your mind from be. Practice both.

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎  
𠄎 𠄎

bi	be	bi	be	bi
bi	bi	bi	bi	bi

𠄎 𠄎  
repeated

231 The next sign is ni, 𠄎, made 丩, 𠄎, 𠄎. Try it:

ni	ni	ni	ni	ni
ni	ni	ni	ni	ni

Transliterate:

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

ni-du-tu  
'unworked land'

an-ni-um  
'this'


an-ni-iš  
'here'

ni-ss-an-nu  
'(a month-name)'

Practice ni until you feel sure of it.

ni	ni	ni	ni	ni
ni	ni	ni	ni	ni

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎  
𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎  
repeated

232 The next sign ir, er, 𠄎, is exactly like ni, 𠄎, except that it has one more vertical:  
 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎. Try it:

ir	ir	ir	ir	ir
ir	ir	ir	ir	ir

Transliterate:

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

" \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

" \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

\*ir-ta-du

'they led each other'

ni-ir-ru

'road'


i-ir-ti

'of a  
breast'

ir-ni-ta-ka

'your  
victory'  
(accusative)

Practice ir. Remember only one vertical keeps it from being ni.

ir	ni	ir	ni	ir
ir	ir	ir	ir	ir

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎

repeated

295 The next sign is pa, 𠄎. Beginning like ni, 𠄎, it has a single vertical that cuts both lines: 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎. Try it:

pa	pa	pa	pa	pa
pa	pa	pa	pa	pa

Put into cuneiform:

pa-aš-tu  
'dagger'

pa-ag-ru  
'body'


𠄎

repeated

Transliterate:

𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

Practice pa until you feel sure you know it.

pa	pa	pa	pa	pa
pa	pa	pa	pa	pa

pa-du  
'to shut  
in'

i-na pa-ni-ka  
'before you'

𠄎

repeated

296 The next sign is GIŠ, 𒄩, a logogram for 'wood' with the Akkadian equivalent igu. It is also used as a determinative before names of wooden objects. Further, it has the value is (iz, ig) as a syllabic value. It is exactly like pa, 𒄬, except that its horizontals do not cut the vertical. Try it: 𒄩, 𒄩.

GIŠ	GIŠ	GIŠ	GIŠ	GIŠ
GIŠ	GIŠ	GIŠ	GIŠ	GIŠ

Transliterate: 𒄩 𒄩 = \_\_\_\_\_

𒄩 𒄩 𒄩 = \_\_\_\_\_

𒄩

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

ni-is-sa-tu 'lament'

GIŠ.GI(=apū)	'reed thicket'			

bi-is  
'there-  
after'

GIŠ.AB.BA  
=kušabku  
'(a thorn  
tree)'

Practice GIŠ until you feel sure of it.  
Keep it distinct in your mind from pa.

GIŠ	pa	GIŠ	pa	GIŠ
GIŠ	GIŠ	GIŠ	GIŠ	GIŠ

𒄩 𒄩 𒄩  
𒄩

𒄩 𒄩

𒄩 𒄩

repeated

297 The next sign is GU<sub>4</sub>, 𒄠, a logogram for 'ox' with the Akkadian equivalent alpu. It is GIŠ with two diagonals following. Try it: 𒄠, 𒄠, 𒄠.

GU <sub>4</sub>	GU <sub>4</sub>	GU <sub>4</sub>	GU <sub>4</sub>	GU <sub>4</sub>
GU <sub>4</sub>	GU <sub>4</sub>	GU <sub>4</sub>	GU <sub>4</sub>	GU <sub>4</sub>

Transliterate: 𒄠 𒄠 = \_\_\_\_\_ 𒄠  
 𒄠 𒄠 = \_\_\_\_\_ repeated

Put into cuneiform:

d(=DINGIR) GU<sub>4</sub>.AN(=DINGIR).NA

(logogram for the god Amurru)

--	--	--	--

GU<sub>4</sub>.GIŠ=alpu  
 niri 'yoke  
 ox'  
 GU<sub>4</sub>.AN=rību  
 'wild steer'

Practice GU<sub>4</sub> until you feel sure of it. Be sure to keep it distinct in your mind from GIŠ.

𒄠 𒄠  
 𒄠 𒄠

GU <sub>4</sub>	GIŠ	GU <sub>4</sub>	GIŠ	GU <sub>4</sub>
GU <sub>4</sub>	GU <sub>4</sub>	GU <sub>4</sub>	GU <sub>4</sub>	GU <sub>4</sub>

𒄠 𒄠  
 repeated

298 The next sign, al, 𐎠𐎡, begins with GIŠ but has an additional 𐎠. It is written 𐎠, 𐎠𐎠, 𐎠𐎠𐎠, 𐎠𐎠𐎠𐎠, 𐎠𐎠𐎠𐎠𐎠.

Try it:

al	al	al	al	al
al	al	al	al	al

Transliterate:

𐎠𐎠𐎠𐎠𐎠 𐎠𐎠𐎠𐎠𐎠

= \_\_\_\_\_

𐎠𐎠𐎠𐎠𐎠𐎠 𐎠𐎠𐎠𐎠𐎠𐎠

= \_\_\_\_\_

𐎠𐎠

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

na-al-ba-nu 'brick mold'

--	--	--	--

la-al-la-ru  
'lamentation  
priest'

ta-al-la-ak  
'you go'

al-li 'of a hoe'

--	--

Practice al until you feel sure of it.

al	al	al	al	al
al	al	al	al	al

𐎠𐎠𐎠








𐎠𐎠𐎠






𐎠𐎠𐎠𐎠

𐎠𐎠

repeated



306 The next sign is up, ub.  , which begins like GIŠ,  , but has diagonal wedges attached:  ,  ,  ,  ,  . Try it:

up	up	up	up	up
				
up	up	up	up	up

Transliterate:

= \_\_\_\_\_

= \_\_\_\_\_



repeated

Put into cuneiform:

hu-ub-tim 'of robbery'

		
---	---	---






hu-ub-ta-tu 'a type of loan'

			
---	---	---	---

tu(=du)-up-  
pa-am  
'tablet'  
(accusative)

nu-up-tu  
'special  
gift'

Practice up until you feel sure of it.

up	up	up	up	up
				
up	up	up	up	up



repeated

308 The next sign is e, 𠄎. It too starts like GIŠ, 𠄎, but has another vertical made up of two smaller verticals: 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎. Try it:

e	e	e	e	e
e	e	e	e	e

Transliterate: 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

\*e-ri-du 'I went down'  
(subjunctive, rare form)

--	--	--

e-gi-tu 'negligence'

--	--	--

e-mu  
'father-  
in-law'  
e-li-iš  
'on top'

Practice e until you are sure you can recognize it.

e	e	e	e	e
e	e	e	e	e

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎  
𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎  
repeated

318 The next sign is ú, 𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫 . The acute accent on the u indicates that this sign is the second in theoretical frequency of signs that are read u. ú begins with GÍŠ. Try ú: 𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫 , 𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫𐎠𐎫 , 𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫𐎠𐎫𐎠𐎫 .

ú	ú	ú	ú	ú
ú	ú	ú	ú	ú

Transliterate:

𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫𐎠𐎫𐎠𐎫𐎠𐎫𐎠𐎫 = \_\_\_\_\_

𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫𐎠𐎫 = \_\_\_\_\_

𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

ú-ub-la  
'he brought me'

ú-nu-tu  
'utensil'


ú-na-ak-ka-ru  
'they change'

ba-nu-ú  
'excellent'

Practice ú until you feel sure of it.

ú	ú	ú	ú	ú
ú	ú	ú	ú	ú

𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫𐎠𐎫𐎠𐎫

𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫𐎠𐎫

On the next page is a quiz on all the signs studied so far.

𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫

repeated

## Section Four

## QUIZ

1. be	2. ba	3. ab	4. ru	5. nam	6. GU4
7. a1	8. nu	9. uk	10. IRU	11. kum	12. bi
13. GIS	14. zu	15. GUR	16. sa	17. sar	18. si
19. tum	20. tu	21. zi	22. ba	23. li	24. as
25. il	26. ni	27. ri	28. as	29. ka	30. u
31. ir	32. um	33. tim	34. mu	35. en	36. up
37. in	38. la	39. is	40. ti	41. SAG	42. an
43. ak	44. DUMU	45. us	46. na	47. i	48. hu
49. qa	50. du	51. e	52. bi	53. sum	54. qi
55. ia	56. ta	57. ik	58. si	59. at	60. DINGIR



## Section Five

319 The next sign is qá, qa, 𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫, which is like ú, 𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫, except for its final diagonals. Try it: 𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫, 𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫, 𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫.

qá	qá	qá	qá	qá
qá	qá	qá	qá	qá

Transliterate: 𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫 𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫 = \_\_\_\_\_

𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫 𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫 𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫 = \_\_\_\_\_

𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

la-ga-ru 'type of priest'

--	--	--

ta-qá-an-ni 'you will retain'

--	--	--	--

ga-la-tu  
'to shake  
with fear'  
qá-qá-rí  
'of earth'

Practice qá. Be sure to keep it distinct from ú.

qá	ú	qá	ú	qá
qá	qá	qá	qá	qá

𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫 𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫  
𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫 𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫  
𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫

𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫 𐎧𐎢𐎠𐎫

repeated

324 The next sign is É, 𒂗, a logogram for 'house' with the Akkadian translation bītu. It is very much like ú, 𒄩, but it has four verticals and no trailing horizontals. Try it: 𒂗, 𒂗, 𒂗.



Transliterate: 𒂗 𒂗 = \_\_\_\_\_ 𒂗  
 𒂗 𒂗 = \_\_\_\_\_ repeated

Put into cuneiform:

É du-ri 'fortress'



É qi-iz-zi 'shearing shed'



DUMU.É=  
mār bīti  
 'adminis-  
 trator of  
 a house-  
 hold'  
 É.GU<sub>4</sub>=  
bīt alpi  
 'cattle  
 shed'

Practice É until you feel sure of it. Keep it distinct in your mind from ú.



𒂗 𒂗  
 𒂗 𒂗  
 𒂗

𒂗 𒂗=  
 repeated

328 The next sign is ra, 𐎠𐎢, written 𐎠, 𐎢, 𐎠𐎢. Try it:

ra	ra	ra	ra	ra
ra	ra	ra	ra	ra

Transliterate: 𐎠𐎢 𐎠𐎢𐎠𐎢 𐎠𐎢𐎠𐎢 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 𐎠𐎢 𐎠𐎢𐎠𐎢 𐎠𐎢 = \_\_\_\_\_

𐎠𐎢  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

ra-pa-aš-tup 'wide'

--	--	--	--

ra-pa-aš-tup  
'to yell'  
ba-ra-amu  
'to be or  
become  
multicolored'

na-ra-am-tu 'beloved'

--	--	--	--

Practice ra until you feel sure of it.

ra	ra	ra	ra	ra
ra	ra	ra	ra	ra

𐎠𐎢 𐎠𐎢 𐎠𐎢  
 𐎠𐎢𐎠𐎢  
 𐎠𐎢 𐎠𐎢𐎠𐎢  
 𐎠𐎢

𐎠𐎢  
repeated



330 The next sign is LÚ, 𒌵, a logogram for 'man', translated by Akkadian amīlu. It is also used as a determinative before names of professions. LÚ begins like ra, 𒊵, but ends with three horizontals above three verticals.

Try it: 𒌵, 𒌵, 𒌵.

LÚ	LÚ	LÚ	LÚ	LÚ
LÚ	LÚ	LÚ	LÚ	LÚ

Tranliterate: 𒌵 𒌵 𒌵 𒌵 = _____	𒌵 repeated
𒌵 𒌵 = _____	

Put into cuneiform: LÚ <u>ta-am-ka-ru</u> 'merchant'	LÚ <u>la-si-mu</u> 'messenger'
	SAG LÚ = <u>reš amīli</u> 'a man's head'
LÚ <u>e-ši-ra</u> 'relief carver' (accusative)	

Practice LÚ and <u>in</u> , which is similar to it.	𒌵 𒌵 𒌵
LÚ in LÚ in LÚ	𒌵 𒌵
	𒌵 𒌵 𒌵
	𒌵
LÚ LÚ LÚ LÚ LÚ	

	𒌵 𒌵 repeated
--	-----------------

334 The next sign is it, id, 𠄎, which resembles am, 𠄎, with an additional 'broken' horizontal and vertical: 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎. Try it:

it	it	it	it	it
it	it	it	it	it

Transliterate:

𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

bi-it-ru-ú 'pretty'

--	--	--	--

si-it-tu 'share'

--	--	--

it-bi 'he  
got up'  
id-ra-nu-um  
'potash'

Practice it until you feel sure of it.

it	it	it	it	it
it	it	it	it	it

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎  
𠄎 𠄎 𠄎  
𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎  
repeated

335 da, दा, is very like it, but da has two verticals: दा, दा, दा, दा, दा .  
Try it:

da	da	da	da	da
da	da	da	da	da

Transliterate: दा दा = \_\_\_\_\_  
दा दा दा दा = \_\_\_\_\_

दा  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

da-an-nu 'strong'

da-al-tu 'door'


\*ti-da  
'you knew'  
da-ri-iš  
'forever'

Practice da and be sure to keep it distinct in your mind from it.

da	it	da	it	da
da	da	da	da	da

दा दा  
दा दा  
दा

दा दा  
repeated

342 The next sign is ma, 𠄎, written:

𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎. Try it:

ma	ma	ma	ma	ma
ma	ma	ma	ma	ma

Put into cuneiform:

ma-al-ka-am 'advice' (accusative)

--	--	--	--	--

ú-ma-al-li 'he fills'

--	--	--	--	--

𠄎

repeated

Transliterate:

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

Practice ma until you feel sure of it.

ma	ma	ma	ma	ma
ma	ma	ma	ma	ma

ma-da-du

'to measure'

ma-ga-ru

'to approve'

𠄎

repeated

343 The next sign is GAL, 𒄠, a logogram for 'great', translated by Akkadian rabû. It is ma, 𒄠, with a trailing horizontal. Try it:  
𒄠, 𒄠, 𒄠.

GAL	GAL	GAL	GAL	GAL

GAL GAL GAL GAL GAL

Transliterate:

𒄠 𒄠 𒄠 = \_\_\_\_\_  
𒄠 𒄠 𒄠 = \_\_\_\_\_

𒄠  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

DINGIR GAL=ilu rabû  
'great god'

GAL.LÚ.SAG=rab rēši  
'general'

--	--

--	--	--

šar-ru GAL  
'great  
king'

\*GAL bi-tu-tu  
'household  
administra-  
tion' (lit-  
erally  
'great-  
household-  
ness')

Practice GAL until you feel sure of it.  
Keep it distinct in your mind from ma.

GAL	ma	GAL	ma	GAL

GAL GAL GAL GAL GAL

𒄠 𒄠  
𒄠 𒄠  
𒄠

𒄠 𒄠  
repeated

353 The next sign is ša, 𒍪, similar to da, 𒃶, but with four horizontals: 𒍪, 𒍪, 𒍪, 𒍪. Try it:

ša	ša	ša	ša	ša
ša	ša	ša	ša	ša

Transliterate: 𒍪 𒍪 = \_\_\_\_\_ 𒍪  
 𒍪 𒍪 = \_\_\_\_\_ repeated

Put into cuneiform:

ša-la-mu  
 'to be whole'  
ga-ša-ru  
 'to be strong'


ša-du  
 'mountain'  
ša-mu  
 'to buy'

Practice ša and da.

ša	da	ša	da	ša
ša	ša	ša	ša	ša

𒍪 𒍪 𒍪  
 𒃶 𒃶 𒃶

𒍪 𒍪  
 repeated

354 The next sign is su, 𠄎 : 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎. Unlike sa, su's bottom horizontal is longer than the others. Try it:

<u>su</u>	<u>su</u>	<u>su</u>	<u>su</u>	<u>su</u>
<u>su</u>	<u>su</u>	<u>su</u>	<u>su</u>	<u>su</u>

Transliterate: 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

su-ub-la-am (no meaning)

--	--	--	--

su-ub-nu  
'to cause  
to build'

se-li-su  
'on him'

re-su 'head'

--	--

Practice su.

<u>su</u>	<u>su</u>	<u>su</u>	<u>su</u>	<u>su</u>
<u>su</u>	<u>su</u>	<u>su</u>	<u>su</u>	<u>su</u>

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎  
𠄎

𠄎 𠄎

𠄎

repeated

367 The next sign is še, 𒊩, which is the second element in the sign mu, 𒄩. It is written <sup>^</sup> , 𒊩 , 𒊩 . Try it:

še	še	še	še	še
še	še	še	še	še

Transliterate:

𒊩 𒄩 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 𒊩 𒊩 𒊩 𒄩 = \_\_\_\_\_

𒊩  
 repeated

Put into cuneiform:

še-mu 'to hear'

ni-še 'lions'

--	--

--	--

še-ú  
 'barley'  
mu-še-še-er  
 'one who puts in order'

Practice še until you feel sure of it.

še	še	še	še	še
še	še	še	še	še

𒊩 𒊩  
 𒄩 𒊩

𒊩  
 repeated



371 The next sign is pu, bu, 𐎡𐎢𐎣, which is bo plus aš, 𐎠 + 𐎢. Try it:

pu	pu	pu	pu	pu
pu	pu	pu	pu	pu

Transliterate: 𐎡𐎢𐎣 𐎠𐎢𐎣 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 𐎠𐎢𐎣 𐎠𐎢𐎣 𐎠𐎢𐎣 = \_\_\_\_\_

𐎠𐎢𐎣  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

pu-bu 'replacement'

bu-ug-li 'of malt'

--	--

--	--	--

na-bu  
'to call'  
pu-ri-du  
'leg'

Practice pu to keep it distinct in your mind from mu.

pu	mu	pu	mu	pu
pu	ru	pu	ru	pu

𐎡𐎢𐎣 𐎠𐎢𐎣  
𐎡𐎢𐎣 𐎠𐎢𐎣  
𐎡𐎢𐎣

𐎡𐎢𐎣 𐎠𐎢𐎣  
repeated

376 The next sign is te, 𠄎, which is se,  
𠄎, plus a vertical. Try it: .

te	te	te	te	te
te	te	te	te	te

Transliterate: 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_  
𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

te-ru-ub 'you entered'

--	--	--

te-bu  
'to rise  
up'

te-nu-ú  
'pendant'

\*ir-te-šu 'they got'

--	--	--



Practice te and pu.

te	pu	te	pu	te
te	te	te	te	te

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎  
repeated

381 The next sign, , has several values. The following logographic values are most common: UTU = Šamaš 'the sun god', BABBAR = pešû 'white, shining', and U<sub>4</sub> = ûmu 'day'. It also has the syllabic values tam and ut, ud. We will refer to it as the UTU sign, but only the context can show you which reading to use. UTU is the last element inscribed in the sign uk, . Try it:

UTU	UTU	UTU	UTU	UTU
UTU	UTU	UTU	UTU	UTU

Transliterate: 



repeated

=



<sup>d</sup>UTU-mu-ba-  
al-il-it  
'Šamaš-makes  
live' (a  
personal  
name)  
tam-gl-tl  
'of a joyous  
song'

Put into cuneiform:

li-mu-ut-tim 'of wickedness'

--	--	--	--

šar-ra-tam 'queen' (accusative)

--	--	--	--




Practice UTU until you feel sure of it.  
Recognizing its various values will come with practice.

UTU	UTU	UTU	UTU	UTU
UTU	UTU	UTU	UTU	UTU

𒄠 𒄠 𒄠  
𒄠  
𒄠 𒄠 𒄠

𒄠

repeated

393 The next sign is wa, , also read wi, wu, or pi. It consists of UTU, , plus an, . Try it:

wa	wa	wa	wa	wa
wa	wa	wa	wa	wa

Transliterate:  = \_\_\_\_\_



 = \_\_\_\_\_

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

wu-uš-šu-ru 'to liberate'

--	--	--	--

pi-it-qa 'fashioning'

--	--	--

wa-la-du  
'to give birth'

wa-qa-ru  
'to be costly'

As you see, it is context only that determines the reading of wa. Practice wa until you are sure of it, and keep it distinct in your mind from UTU.



wa	UTU	wa	UTU	wa
wa	wa	wa	wa	wa

On the next pages is a quiz on all the signs studied so far.

repeated

## Section Five

## QUIZ

1. šar	2. i	3. gī	4. mu	5. bī
6. aš	7. tum	8. pa	9. hu	10. si
11. la	12. ma	13. ir	14. zu	15. am
16. ru	17. il	18. DUMU	19. uk	20. UTU
21. ab	22. uš	23. zi	24. ba	25. ln
26. tu	27. bi	28. da	29. SAG	30. ka
31. du	32. kum	33. ú	34. GUR	35. ia
36. um	37. e	38. ga	39. as	40. GUG
41. nī	42. en	43. ta	44. ra	45. LÚ
46. be	47. GIŠ	48. ša	49. ik	50. GAL

51. wa	52. sa	53. še	54. ak	55. ri

56. te	57. la	58. IKU	59. na	60. ai

61. é	62. up	63. DINGIR	64. nu	65. šum

66. al	67. ti	68. li	69. nam	70. tim

71. pu	72. at	73. it	74. šu	75. ga

## ANSWERS

- |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. 晴  | 2. 昨  | 3. 雨  | 4. 雪  | 5. 風  |
| 6. 土  | 7. 日  | 8. 月  | 9. 火  | 10. 水 |
| 11. 木 | 12. 金 | 13. 土 | 14. 火 | 15. 水 |
| 16. 日 | 17. 月 | 18. 火 | 19. 水 | 20. 土 |
| 21. 日 | 22. 月 | 23. 火 | 24. 水 | 25. 土 |
| 26. 日 | 27. 月 | 28. 火 | 29. 水 | 30. 土 |
| 31. 日 | 32. 月 | 33. 火 | 34. 水 | 35. 土 |
| 36. 日 | 37. 月 | 38. 火 | 39. 水 | 40. 土 |
| 41. 日 | 42. 月 | 43. 火 | 44. 水 | 45. 土 |
| 46. 日 | 47. 月 | 48. 火 | 49. 水 | 50. 土 |
| 51. 日 | 52. 月 | 53. 火 | 54. 水 | 55. 土 |
| 56. 日 | 57. 月 | 58. 火 | 59. 水 | 60. 土 |
| 61. 日 | 62. 月 | 63. 火 | 64. 水 | 65. 土 |
| 66. 日 | 67. 月 | 68. 火 | 69. 水 | 70. 土 |
| 71. 日 | 72. 月 | 73. 火 | 74. 水 | 75. 土 |

If you missed one sign, practice it here. If you missed more than one, go back to the places where those signs were first presented and work through the sections on each again. Then go on to Section Six.

Sign \_\_\_\_\_ :

--	--	--	--	--	--



Section Six

384 The next sign is ŠĀ, 𒊿, a logogram for 'heart', translated by Akkadian libbu. It is UTU, 𒌦, with two following verticalicals. Try it: 𒊿, 𒊿, 𒊿.

ŠĀ	ŠĀ	ŠĀ	ŠĀ	ŠĀ
ŠĀ	ŠĀ	ŠĀ	ŠĀ	ŠĀ

Transliterate:

𒊿 𒊿 𒊿 𒊿 𒊿 = \_\_\_\_\_

𒊿 𒊿 = \_\_\_\_\_

𒊿

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

i-na ŠĀ É 'inside a house'

--	--	--	--	--

<sup>d</sup>ŠĀ.ZU '(a name for the god Marduk)

--	--	--

i-na ŠĀ LÚ  
'in a man's  
heart'ŠĀ.TAM=  
Šatammu  
'(an  
official)'

Practice ŠĀ until you feel sure of it. Keep it distinct in your mind from UTU and wa.

ŠĀ UTU ŠĀ wa ŠĀ

ŠĀ	wa	ŠĀ	UTU	ŠĀ

𒊿 𒌦 𒊿

𒊿

𒊿 𒌦 𒊿

𒊿 𒊿 𒊿

repeated

396 The next sign is hi, 𠄎 . It is the last element of gi, 𠄎𠄎 . Try it:

hi	hi	hi	hi	hi
hi	hi	hi	hi	hi

Transliterate:

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎 𠄎𠄎 𠄎𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

É hi-la-an-ni 'type of palace'

--	--	--	--	--

\*i-na mu-hi 'before'

--	--	--	--

\*i-hi-is-su

"his teaching"

\*hi-li-bu-ú

'(a stone)'

Practice hi to keep it distinct in your mind from the similar sign še.

hi	še	hi	še	hi
hi	hi	hi	hi	hi

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎  
𠄎 𠄎  
𠄎 𠄎  
𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎

repeated

398 The next sign is ab, ih, eb, uh, 𐎠𐎡𐎢. It begins with hi, 𐎠𐎡, 𐎠𐎡𐎢. Try it:

ab	ab	ab	ab	ab
ab	ab	ab	ab	ab

Transliterator:

𐎠𐎡𐎢 𐎠𐎡 𐎠𐎡𐎢 = \_\_\_\_\_

𐎠𐎡 𐎠𐎡𐎢 𐎠𐎡 = \_\_\_\_\_

𐎠𐎡𐎢  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

ab-hi 'of brothers'

--	--

ih-šu-uh  
'he desired'  
nu-uh-hu  
'front'

pu-uh-hu-ru 'to assemble'

--	--	--	--

Practice ab until you feel sure of it.

ab	ab	ab	ab	ab
ab	ab	ab	ab	ab

𐎠𐎡𐎢 𐎠  
𐎠𐎡 𐎠𐎡𐎢  
𐎠𐎡 𐎠𐎡𐎢

𐎠𐎡𐎢  
repeated

399 The next sign is im, em, 𐎠𐎢𐎡 . It is the reverse of gi, 𐎠𐎢𐎡 . Try it:

im	im	im	im	im
im	im	im	im	im

Transliterate:

𐎠𐎢𐎡 𐎠𐎢𐎡

= \_\_\_\_\_

𐎠𐎢𐎡 𐎠𐎢𐎡 𐎠𐎢𐎡

= \_\_\_\_\_

𐎠𐎢𐎡

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

ni-lá l-li-im 'oath of a god'

--	--	--	--	--

im-ma-ru 'they see'

--	--	--

im-du-un  
'support'

e im-ra-aš  
'let him  
not worry'

Practice im and keep it distinct in your mind from gi.

im	gi	im	gi	im
im	im	im	im	im

𐎠𐎢𐎡

𐎠𐎢𐎡 𐎠𐎢𐎡

𐎠𐎢𐎡 𐎠𐎢𐎡

𐎠𐎢𐎡 𐎠𐎢𐎡

repeated

406 The next sign is kam, 𠄎. It is used as a syllabic value, but it is also used as a logogram, read KAM, to indicate that the preceding sign is to be read as a number. The logographic use will be encountered later when we have learned some number signs. Kam is 𠄎, 𠄎, plus 𠄎. Try it: 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎.

kam	kam	kam	kam	kam
𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎
kam	kam	kam	kam	kam

Transliterate:

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

= \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

= \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

kam-mu '(a fungus)'

𠄎	𠄎
---	---

kam-kam-ma-tu  
'(kind of ring)'

na-kam-tum  
'storehouse'

kam-ma-al 𠄎-ru-ti 'adversary(?) of kingship'

𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎
---	---	---	---	---

Practice kam until you feel sure of it.  
Keep it distinct in your mind from ah.

kam ah kam ah kam

𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎
𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎

kam kam kam kam kam

𠄎 𠄎

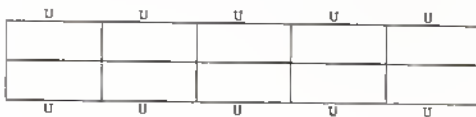
𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎

repeated

411 The next sign is the logogram for the number 10, <, read U in Sumerian and ešir in Akkadian. It is merely a single diagonal wedge. Try it:



Transliterate:

𐎠 < 𐎠 = \_\_\_\_\_

𐎠𐎠 < 𐎠 = \_\_\_\_\_

<

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

É 10-KAM 'tenth house'



tu(=du)-up-pu 10-KAM '10th tablet'



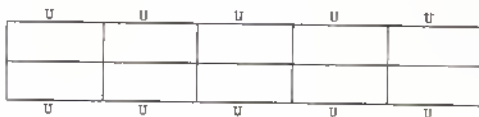
U<sub>4</sub> 10-KAM

'10th day'

LÚ 10-KAM

'10th man'

Practice U until you feel sure of it.



𐎠 < 𐎠

𐎠𐎠 < 𐎠

< 𐎠

<

repeated

427 The next sign is mi, 𠂇, which begins with U. Try it: 𠂇, 𠂇, 𠂇.

mi	mi	mi	mi	mi
mi	mi	mi	mi	mi

Transliterate:

𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠂇

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

\*Mi-gi-ir-i-li 'assent of god' (a personal name)

--	--	--	--	--

o-mi-id 'I put'

--	--	--

um-ni-gu

'of his  
mother'

mi-is-ru-um

'border'

Practice mi until you feel sure of it.

mi	mi	mi	mi	mi
mi	mi	mi	mi	mi






𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇

𠂇 𠂇 𠂇

𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇

𠂇

repeated

433 The next sign is nim, , which starts like ni, , but ends in a diagonal wedge and a vertical wedge. Try it: , , .

nim	nim	nim	nim	nim
nim	nim	nim	nim	nim

Transliterate:

  = \_\_\_\_\_

     = \_\_\_\_\_



repeated

Put into cuneiform:

da-na-nim 'of strength'

--	--	--

i-sa-pu-ru-nim 'they will send to me'

--	--	--	--	--

nim-ru  
'leopard'

nim-gal-li  
du-ri '(a  
siege  
device)'

Practice nim until you feel sure of it. Be sure to keep it separate in your mind from ni.

nim	ni	nim	ni	nim
nim	nim	nim	nim	nim






  

repeated



435 The next sign is lam,  , which is distinguished from nim,  , by having one more vertical at the end. Try it:  ,  ,  .

lam	lam	lam	lam	lam
lam	lam	lam	lam	lam

Transliterate:

    = \_\_\_\_\_

    = \_\_\_\_\_



repeated

Put into cuneiform:

i-lam-ma-du 'they will understand'

--	--	--	--	--

GIS lam-mu 'almond tree'

--	--	--	--

gi-il-lam

'shadow'

(accusative)

\*sa-lam <sup>URU</sup>

'sunset'

Practice lam until you feel sure of it. Be sure to keep it distinct in your mind from nim.

lam	nim	lam	nim	lam
lam	lam	lam	lam	lam





  



repeated

437 The next sign is AMAR, , a logogram for 'calf', with the Akkadian translation būru. It resembles mi, , but has two diagonal wedges at the end. Try it: , .

AMAR	AMAR	AMAR	AMAR	AMAR
AMAR	AMAR	AMAR	AMAR	AMAR

Transliterate:   = \_\_\_\_\_   
  = \_\_\_\_\_ repeated

Put into cuneiform:

<sup>d</sup>AMAR.UTU=Marduk (a god)

--	--	--

AMAR.<sup>d</sup>EN.ZU=Būr-sîn (a personal name)

--	--	--	--

AMAR-ni  
'our calf'  
AMAR.GA=  
būr sîzbi  
'suckling'  
(literally  
'calf of  
milk')

Practice AMAR until you feel sure of it. Be sure not to confuse it with mi.

AMAR	mi	AMAR	mi	AMAR
AMAR	AMAR	AMAR	AMAR	AMAR


    
    


   
repeated




441 The next sign is ul, , which is GU<sub>4</sub>,

, preceded by U, < .

Try it: < , ,  .

ul	ul	ul	ul	ul
				
ul	ul	ul	ul	ul

Transliterate:

   = \_\_\_\_\_

  = \_\_\_\_\_



repeated

Put into cuneiform:

bu-ul-ta(=da)-am 'life' (accusative)

			
---	---	---	---

bu-ul-la-nu 'a garment'






			
---	---	---	---









i-pu-ul

'he  
answered'

ul-tu  
'from'





Practice ul until you are sure of it. Be sure to keep it distinct in your mind from GU<sub>4</sub>.

ul	GU <sub>4</sub>	ul	GU <sub>4</sub>	ul
				
ul	ul	ul	ul	ul

repeated

449 The next sign is ši, , which also starts with U. Try it: , , .

<u>š</u> i	<u>š</u> i	<u>š</u> i	<u>š</u> i	<u>š</u> i
<u>š</u> i	<u>š</u> i	<u>š</u> i	<u>š</u> i	<u>š</u> i

Transliterate:

    = \_\_\_\_\_

     = \_\_\_\_\_

  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

ka-ši-id 'it is conquered'

--	--	--

i-na-aš-ši 'he lifts'








--	--	--	--

ši-im-tu  
'fate'




ši-hi-it-tum  
'(a plant)'

Practice ši until you feel sure of it and can distinguish it from wa.

<u>š</u> i	wa	<u>š</u> i	wa	<u>š</u> i
<u>š</u> i	<u>š</u> i	<u>š</u> i	<u>š</u> i	<u>š</u> i

   
repeated

451 The next sign is ar, , which is gi, , plus ri, . Try it:

ar	ar	ar	ar	ar
ar	ar	ar	ar	ar

Transliterate:

 = \_\_\_\_\_

 = \_\_\_\_\_

  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

ša-ar ma-ti 'king of the land'

--	--	--	--






ar-na-ba-tim 'hares'

--	--	--	--

ar-nu  
'sin'  
ma-ar-ti-ka  
'of your  
daughter'

Practice ar until you feel sure of it.

ar	ar	ar	ar	ar
ar	ar	ar	ar	ar

  
repeated

455 The next sign is ù,  $\langle \text{U} \rangle$ , which is ù,  
 $\langle \text{U} \rangle$ , plus u,  $\langle \text{U} \rangle$ , a sign to be learned  
 later. This sign is frequently used for the word  
u 'and'. Try it:  $\langle \text{U} \rangle$ ,  $\langle \text{U} \rangle$ ,  $\langle \text{U} \rangle$ .

ù	ù	ù	ù	ù
ù	ù	ù	ù	ù

Transliterate:

$\langle \text{U} \rangle$   $\langle \text{U} \rangle$   $\langle \text{U} \rangle$   $\langle \text{U} \rangle$   $\langle \text{U} \rangle$   $\langle \text{U} \rangle$

$\langle \text{U} \rangle$   
 repeated

Pnt into cunelform:

u-mu ù DUU 'mother and son'

--	--	--	--	--

ù-ar-ru ù  
ru-bu  
 'king and noble'

Practice ù until you feel sure of it.

ù	ù	ù	ù	ù
ù	ù	ù	ù	ù

$\langle \text{U} \rangle$   $\langle \text{U} \rangle$   
 $\langle \text{U} \rangle$   $\langle \text{U} \rangle$

$\langle \text{U} \rangle$   
 repeated

457 The next sign is di, 𠄎, composed of U,  
 𠄎, plus a vertical, plus pa, 𠄎.

Try it: 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎.

di	di	di	di	di
di	di	di	di	di

Put into cuneiform:

ti-di 'you know'

di-in-tu 'tower'

--	--

--	--	--

𠄎

repeated

Transliterater:

𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

Practice di until you feel sure of it.

di	di	di	di	di
di	di	di	di	di

di-nu  
 'legal  
 decision'

wa-ar-di-ku  
 'of his  
 slave'

On the next pages is a quiz on all the signs  
 studied so far.

𠄎

repeated

## Section Six

## QUIZ

1. ta	2. qa	3. šÀ	4. pa	5. lam	6. be
7. tu	8. ab	9. ni	10. ęi	11. aḫ	12. ii
13. aš	14. uk	15. kum	16. iś	17. it	18. ti
19. te	20. ši	21. ak	22. šum	23. li	24. ęi
25. ru	26. ba	27. ik	28. na	29. mi	30. GAL
31. GIŠ	32. um	33. mu	34. ri	35. UTU	36. ú
37. DINGIR	38. en	39. ul	40. e	41. šu	42. at
43. qá	44. GU <sub>4</sub>	45. ù	46. ar	47. É	48. i
49. da	50. pu	51. LÚ	52. la	53. ma	54. im



55. bi	56. si	57. bi	58. GUR	59. za	60. di
61. ze	62. in	63. ka	64. nam	65. nu	66. ra
67. zi	68. hu	69. gi	70. al	71. DUMU	72. us
73. am	74. IKU	75. nim	76. wa	77. tim	78. U
79. SAG	80. as	81. zu	82. AMAR	83. wa	84. up
85. tum	86. du	87. ia	88. kam	89. zar	90. ir

## ANSWERS

- |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. 𠄎  | 2. 𠄎  | 3. 𠄎  | 4. 𠄎  | 5. 𠄎  | 6. 𠄎  |
| 7. 𠄎  | 8. 𠄎  | 9. 𠄎  | 10. 𠄎 | 11. 𠄎 | 12. 𠄎 |
| 13. 𠄎 | 14. 𠄎 | 15. 𠄎 | 16. 𠄎 | 17. 𠄎 | 18. 𠄎 |
| 19. 𠄎 | 20. 𠄎 | 21. 𠄎 | 22. 𠄎 | 23. 𠄎 | 24. 𠄎 |
| 25. 𠄎 | 26. 𠄎 | 27. 𠄎 | 28. 𠄎 | 29. 𠄎 | 30. 𠄎 |
| 31. 𠄎 | 32. 𠄎 | 33. 𠄎 | 34. 𠄎 | 35. 𠄎 | 36. 𠄎 |
| 37. 𠄎 | 38. 𠄎 | 39. 𠄎 | 40. 𠄎 | 41. 𠄎 | 42. 𠄎 |
| 43. 𠄎 | 44. 𠄎 | 45. 𠄎 | 46. 𠄎 | 47. 𠄎 | 48. 𠄎 |
| 49. 𠄎 | 50. 𠄎 | 51. 𠄎 | 52. 𠄎 | 53. 𠄎 | 54. 𠄎 |
| 55. 𠄎 | 56. 𠄎 | 57. 𠄎 | 58. 𠄎 | 59. 𠄎 | 60. 𠄎 |
| 61. 𠄎 | 62. 𠄎 | 63. 𠄎 | 64. 𠄎 | 65. 𠄎 | 66. 𠄎 |
| 67. 𠄎 | 68. 𠄎 | 69. 𠄎 | 70. 𠄎 | 71. 𠄎 | 72. 𠄎 |
| 73. 𠄎 | 74. 𠄎 | 75. 𠄎 | 76. 𠄎 | 77. 𠄎 | 78. 𠄎 |
| 79. 𠄎 | 80. 𠄎 | 81. 𠄎 | 82. 𠄎 | 83. 𠄎 | 84. 𠄎 |
| 85. 𠄎 | 86. 𠄎 | 87. 𠄎 | 88. 𠄎 | 89. 𠄎 | 90. 𠄎 |

If you missed one sign, practice it here. If you missed more than one, go back to the places where the signs were first presented and work again through those parts. Then go on to Section Seven.

Sign \_\_\_\_\_ :

--	--	--	--	--	--

## Section Seven

461 The next sign is ki, 𠄎, consisting of U, <, plus 𠄎, 𠄎, a sign to be learned later. Try it: 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎.

ki	ki	ki	ki	ki
ki	ki	ki	ki	ki

Transliterate:  
𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

ki-sa-al-li 'of a vestibule'

--	--	--	--

ki-ma 'like'

--	--

ki-la-la-an  
'both'  
ki-iš-ru  
'knot'

Practice ki to keep it separate in your mind from di.

ki	di	ki	di	ki
ki	ki	ki	ki	ki

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎  
𠄎  
𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎  
repeated

458 The next sign is KÙ, 𒌷, a logogram for 'pure', translated by Akkadian ellu. Try it:  
𒌷, 𒌷, 𒌷.

KÙ	KÙ	KÙ	KÙ	KÙ
KÙ	KÙ	KÙ	KÙ	KÙ

Transliterate: 𒌷 𒌷 = \_\_\_\_\_  
𒌷 𒌷 𒌷 = \_\_\_\_\_

𒌷  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

KÙ.GI=burāṣu 'gold'      KÙ.IM,BA=butuqqū 'loss'

--	--

--	--	--

KÙ, BABBAR=  
kaspu  
'silver'  
LÚ.KÙ, ZU=  
emqu  
'wise man'

Practice KÙ until you feel sure of it.

KÙ	KÙ	KÙ	KÙ	KÙ
KÙ	KÙ	KÙ	KÙ	KÙ

𒌷 𒌷  
𒌷 𒌷 𒌷

𒌷  
repeated

472 The next sign, eš, 𒂗, is simply three U's,  
 𒂗. Try it:

eš	eš	eš	eš	eš
eš	eš	eš	eš	eš

Transliterate: 𒂗 𒂗 = \_\_\_\_\_ 𒂗  
 𒂗 𒂗 = \_\_\_\_\_ repeated

Put into cuneiform:

eš-ra-ti-šu 'of his tenth'

--	--	--	--	--

te-eš-mu-um 'hearing'

--	--	--	--	--



eš-šu  
 'new'  
e-eš  
 'where?'

Practice eš until you feel sure of it.

eš	eš	eš	eš	eš
eš	eš	eš	eš	eš

𒂗 𒂗 𒂗 𒂗  
 𒂗  
 𒂗 𒂗 𒂗  
 𒂗

𒂗  
 repeated

480 The next sign is DIŠ, , a logogram for the number 1, Akkadian īstēn. It is not to be confused with aš, , which also consists of a single wedge. Try it:

DIŠ	DIŠ	DIŠ	DIŠ	DIŠ
DIŠ	DIŠ	DIŠ	DIŠ	DIŠ

Transliterate:

 T ΔK = \_\_\_\_\_

 T ΔK = \_\_\_\_\_

T  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

É 1-KAM  
'one house'

11 (eleven) = istēnešret  
= 10 + 1

LÚ 1-KAM  
'one man'  
U<sub>4</sub> 1-KAM  
'one day'

Practice DIŠ until you feel sure of it. Be sure to keep it distinct in your mind from aš.

DIŠ	DIŠ	DIŠ	DIŠ	DIŠ
DIŠ	aš	DIŠ	aš	DIŠ

  
< T

T  
repeated

532 The next sign is me, 𒄠, which is a vertical plus me, 𒄠. Try it:

me	me	me	me	me
me	me	me	me	me

Transliterate:

𒄠 𒄠 𒄠 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 𒄠 𒄠 𒄠 = \_\_\_\_\_

𒄠  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

me-me-me EN.ZU  
 'the god Sin heard' (a personal name)


ka-ar-me 'ruins'

--	--	--

me-me-me  
 '(a stone)'  
me-li-im-mi  
 'of a fear-  
 some look'

Practice me.

me	me	me	me	me
me	me	me	me	me

𒄠 𒄠 𒄠  
 𒄠 𒄠  
 𒄠 𒄠 𒄠  
 𒄠

𒄠  
repeated

533 The next sign is MEŠ, 𒄠, a logogram indicating the plural. It is a ligature of me, 𒄠, and ša, 𒄠. Try it: 𒄠, 𒄠, 𒄠.

MEŠ	MEŠ	MEŠ	MEŠ	MEŠ
MEŠ	MEŠ	MEŠ	MEŠ	MEŠ

Transliterate:

𒄠 𒄠 = \_\_\_\_\_

𒄠 𒄠 = \_\_\_\_\_

𒄠  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

AMAR.MEŠ=būru  
'calves'

U<sub>4</sub>.MEŠ=ūmū  
'days'


É.MEŠ=  
bitātu  
'houses'  
LÚ.MEŠ=  
awīlū  
'men'

Practice MEŠ until you feel sure of it. Be sure to keep it distinct in your mind from me.

MEŠ	me	MEŠ	me	MEŠ
MEŠ	MEŠ	MEŠ	MEŠ	MEŠ

𒄠 𒄠  
𒄠 𒄠

𒄠 𒄠  
repeated



535 The next sign, which begins like me, is ib,  
ip, ih. Try it: ib, ip, ih.

ib	ib	ib	ib	ib
ib	ib	ib	ib	ib

Transliterate:

ib 建 建 建 = \_\_\_\_\_

ib 建 建 建 = \_\_\_\_\_

ib

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

ip-hu-ru 'they assembled'

--	--	--	--

ip-li-šu-nu 'of their compensation payment'

--	--	--	--

li-ib-ni

'may he  
build'

si-ib-tu

'interest'

Practice ib until you feel sure of it.

ib	ib	ib	ib	ib
ib	ib	ib	ib	ib

ib 建 建 建

ib 建 建

ib 建

ib

repeated

536 The next sign is ku, 𠄎, which is the second element in ki, 𠄎. Try it:

ku	ku	ku	ku	ku
ku	ku	ku	ku	ku

Transliterate:

𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

ar-ku 'long'

ku-uk-gu '(a plant)'

--	--	--	--	--

da-ku

'to kill'

il-li-ku

'they went'

Practice ku until you feel sure of it.

ku	ku	ku	ku	ku
ku	ku	ku	ku	ku

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎

repeated

537 The next sign is lu, 𠄎, which is the second element in ku, 𠄎. It is the same as ku but with one more vertical following. Try it:

lu	lu	lu	lu	lu
lu	lu	lu	lu	lu

Transliterate:

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎

repeated

Put into cunelform:

aa-lu-uk-ka-tu 'storehouse'

--	--	--	--	--

be-lu 'lord'

--	--

wa-ha-lu

'to carry'

lu-ku-ul

'let me eat'

Practice lu to keep it distinct in your mind from ku.

lu	ku	lu	ku	lu
lu	lu	lu	lu	lu



𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎

repeated

554 The next sign is SAL, , a logogram for 'woman', Akkadian sinništu. It is used as a determinative before women's personal and professional names. It also has the reading GEME 'female slave' with the Akkadian translation amtu. SAL begins like the middle element in ur, , and has a horizontal at the end.

Try it: , ,  .

SAL	SAL	SAL	SAL	SAL
SAL	SAL	SAL	SAL	SAL

Transliterate:

    = \_\_\_\_\_

    = \_\_\_\_\_



repeated

SAL si-ib-tu  
'female  
witness'

SAL sa-il-tu  
'female  
dream  
interpreter'

Put into cuneiform:

SAL, TUR (=DUMU)

=subartu

'young woman'

1 SAG.GEME

'one (head) female slave'

--	--

--	--	--

Practice SAL until you feel sure of it.

SAL

SAL

SAL

SAL

SAL


SAL

SAL

SAL

SAL

SAL

𒍪 𒍪

𒍪 𒍪 𒍪 𒍪 𒍪

On the next pages is a quiz on all the signs studied so far.

𒍪

repeated

## Section Seven

## QUIZ

1. wa	2. aš	3. as	4. at	5. ak
6. te	7. mi	8. GUg	9. si	10. kam
11. GAL	12. zi	13. zu	14. kum	15. qa
16. nim	17. up	18. ti	19. si	20. LÚ
21. ba	22. ia	23. UTU	24. ai	25. be
26. li	27. ri	28. bí	29. it	30. lu
31. du	32. hi	33. eš	34. ib	35. GUR
36. ši	37. ma	38. en	39. pu	40. ar
41. SAG	42. uš	43. DINGIR	44. pa	45. il
46. tun	47. ku	48. mu	49. ik	50. ul

51. di	52. DUMU	53. um	54. qá	55. GIŠ
56. tım	57. ni	58. ū	59. aḫ	60. tu
61. an	62. me	63. U	64. lr	65. ru
66. KÙ	67. iš	68. ki	69. nu	70. ša
71. in	72. IKU	73. e	74. É	75. aa
76. ú	77. da	78. i	79. šu	80. DIŠ
81. nam	82. gi	83. na	84. ka	85. ta
86. lm	87. ra	88. AMAR	89. šum	90. uk
91. SAL	92. MEŠ	93. ab	94. še	95. lam
96. bu	97. la	98. bi	99. šar	100. ŠÀ





## Section Eight

556 The next sign is nin, 𒊩, which is SAL, 𒊩. plus ma, 𒀭. As a logogram read NIN the sign means 'lady' and is translated by Akkadian beltu. Try it: 𒊩, 𒊩𒀭, 𒊩𒀭𒊩.

nin	nin	nin	sal	nin
nin	nin	nin	nin	nin

Transliterate:

𒊩𒀭𒊩 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 𒊩𒀭𒊩𒀭 = \_\_\_\_\_

𒊩  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

<sup>d</sup>NIN, GAL-um-mi  
 'the goddess Ningal is my mother'  
 (a personal name)

ša-nin-šu  
 'his equal'

la te-nin-ni  
 'do not  
 punish me'

* <u>nin-da-bu</u> 'bread offering'				






Practice nin until you feel sure of it.  
 Keep it distinct in your mind from SAL.



nin	SAL	nin	SAL	nin
nin	nin	nin	nin	nin

𒊩𒀭𒊩  
 𒊩𒀭𒊩

𒊩𒀭𒊩𒀭

𒊩𒀭  
repeated

557 The next sign is dam, , which is exactly the same as nin, , except for one additional horizontal wedge in the na element. As a logogram it is read DAN and means 'spouse' with the Akkadian equivalents mutu 'husband' and ammatu 'wife'. Try it: , , .

dam	dam	dam	dam	dam
				
dam	dam	dam	dam	dam

Transliterate:



repeated

dam-ga i-ni  
'with  
beautiful(?)  
(?) eyes'

u-ri-dan  
'he came  
down'

Put into cuneiform:

tam(=dam)-ka-ru 'merchant'

--	--	--	--

dam-tam iš-pu-uk 'he heaped up destruction(?)'

--	--	--	--	--

Practice dam until you feel sure of it. Be sure to keep it distinct in your mind from nin.

dam      nin      dam      nin      dam


dam      dam      dam      dam      dam

𒀠 𒀠

𒀠 𒀠

𒀠 𒀠

𒀠 𒀠

repeated

564 The next sign is el, 𐎗, composed of SAL's first element, plus ai plus a vertical, written 𐎗, 𐎗𐎗, 𐎗𐎗𐎗. Try it:

el	el	el	el	el
el	el	el	el	el

Transliterate:

𐎗𐎗𐎗 = \_\_\_\_\_

𐎗𐎗𐎗𐎗 = \_\_\_\_\_

𐎗

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

el-gi-iš 'joyfully'

--	--	--

el-bi-iš 'proudly'

--	--	--

el-me-bu

'(a stone)'

el-li-bu

'(a plant)'

Practice el until you feel sure of it.

el	el	el	el	el
el	el	el	el	el

𐎗 𐎗 𐎗

𐎗𐎗 𐎗𐎗

𐎗

repeated

565 The next sign is lum, 𠄎, which begins like SAL, 𠄎, but ends in four horizontals. Try it: 𠄎, 𠄎, 𠄎.

lum	lum	lum	lum	lum
lum	lum	lum	lum	lum

Transliterate:

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𠄎

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

ba-la-lum 'to mix'

--	--	--

su-lum-ki 'your(feminine) well-being'

--	--	--

su-uk-lu-lum  
'to complete'

gl-ml-il-lum  
'act of kindness'

Practice lum and el.

lum	el	lum	el	lum
lum	lum	lum	lum	lum

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎 𠄎

𠄎 𠄎

repeated

570 The next sign is MIN, 𐎎, a logogram for the number 2, translated by Akkadian šina. It is simply two DIŠ signs, 𐎎. Try it:

MIN	MIN	MIN	MIN	MIN
MIN	MIN	MIN	MIN	MIN

Transliterate:

𐎎𐎎 𐎎 𐎎𐎎 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 𐎎𐎎 𐎎𐎎 𐎎 𐎎𐎎 = \_\_\_\_\_

𐎎  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

U<sub>4</sub> 12 (=10+2)-KAM 'twelfth day'

--	--	--

LÚ 12-KAM 'twelfth man'

--	--	--




É 2-KAM  
'second house'  
 SAG.AMAR  
 2-KAM  
'second' head  
(of) calf'






Practice MIN until you feel sure of it.

MIN	MIN	MIN	MIN	MIN
MIN	MIN	MIN	MIN	MIN

𐎎 𐎎 𐎎 𐎎  
 𐎎𐎎 𐎎 𐎎𐎎

𐎎  
repeated

575 The next sign is ur,  , which is the opposite of ib,  . ib has the element me,  , first. Try ur.

ur	ur	ur	ur	ur
				
ur	ur	ur	ur	ur

Transliterate:

   = \_\_\_\_\_

   = \_\_\_\_\_



repeated

Put into cuneiform:

pu-zu-ur 'secret of'

du-ur 'wall of'

		
---	---	---

	
---	---

im-bu-ur

'he received'

ur-ba-ti

'of reed'

Practice ur until you feel sure of it. Keep it distinct in your mind from ib.

ur	ib	ur	ib	ur
				
ur	ur	ur	ur	ur

repeated

579 The next sign is a, 𐎠, the final element  
in a, 𐎠𐎢. Try it:

a	a	a	a	a
a	a	a	a	a

Transliterate:

𐎠 𐎠𐎢 𐎠𐎢𐎠

= \_\_\_\_\_

𐎠 𐎠𐎢

= \_\_\_\_\_

𐎠

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

a-ka-lu 'to eat'

--	--	--

a-pu-ur 'I replied'

--	--	--

a-ma-tun  
'word'

a-di  
'until'

Practice a until you feel sure of it.

a	a	a	a	a
a	a	a	a	a

𐎠 𐎠𐎢 𐎠𐎢𐎠

𐎠 𐎠𐎢 𐎠𐎢

𐎠

repeated



586 The next sign is ḡa, za, ḡḡ, which is the final inscribed element in ḡḡ, ḡḡ. Try it:

ḡa	ḡa	ḡa	ḡa	ḡa
ḡa	ḡa	ḡa	ḡa	ḡa

Transliterate:

ḡḡ ḡḡ ḡḡ = \_\_\_\_\_

ḡḡ ḡḡ ḡḡ = \_\_\_\_\_

ḡḡ  
repeated

Put into cuneiform:

pa-ḡa-du 'to cut'

--	--	--

i-ḡa-a-a-aḡ 'he makes his rounds'

--	--	--	--	--

ḡa-ra-pu  
'to burn'  
ḡa-la-ni  
'of becoming dark'

Practice ḡa until you feel sure of it. Be sure to keep it distinct in your mind from a.

ḡa	a	ḡa	a	ḡa
ḡa	ḡa	ḡa	ḡa	ḡa

ḡḡ ḡḡ  
ḡḡ ḡḡ ḡḡ  
ḡḡ

ḡḡ ḡḡ  
repeated

589 The next sign is ha, 𐎡𐎠, which is sa, 𐎲𐎠, plus U, 𐎠. Try it:

ba	ba	ba	ba	ba
ba	ba	ba	ha	ha

Transliterate:

𐎡𐎠 𐎲𐎠 𐎡𐎠

= \_\_\_\_\_

𐎡𐎠 𐎲𐎠 𐎡𐎠

= \_\_\_\_\_

𐎡𐎠

repeated

Put into cuneiform:

ha-ab-hu 'spittle'

--	--	--

ha-du-ú 'to be happy'

--	--	--

ha-ru-bu

'carob'

te-er-ha-tu

'bride

price'

Practice ha until you feel sure of it. Be sure to keep it distinct in your mind from sa.

ha sa ba sa ba







ha	ba	ba	ha	ha

𐎡𐎠 𐎲𐎠 𐎡𐎠

𐎡𐎠 𐎲𐎠 𐎲𐎠

𐎡𐎠 𐎡𐎠

repeated

595 The next sign is GÍN, , a logogram for 'sheqel', a small measure of weight equivalent to about 8.33 grams in some periods; the Akkadian translation is ṣiqḷu. Try it: , ,  - ,  -

GÍN	GÍN	GÍN	GÍN	GÍN
GÍN	GÍN	GÍN	GÍN	GÍN

Transliterate:

T  <ff> <f>

= \_\_\_\_\_

<  <ff> <ff>

= \_\_\_\_\_



repeated

Put into cuneiform:

i-na 1 GÍN GAL 'according to one large sheqel'

--	--	--	--	--

2 GÍN za-ba-lum '2 sheqels of (a resin)'





--	--	--	--	--

1 GÍN  
KÙ.BABBAR  
'1 sheqel  
silver'

10 GÍN  
KÙ.GI  
'10 sheqels  
gold'

Practice GÍN until you feel sure of it.

GÍN	GÍN	GÍN	GÍN	GÍN
GÍN	GÍN	GÍN	GÍN	GÍN

 <ff> T  
 <ff>  
T  <ff>  
 <ff>



repeated

You have now studied the basic signs of the cuneiform system. If you have learned them, you may be justly proud of your achievement. The task of mastering the cuneiform system lies now in learning other values for the signs you know and in learning the other, less frequently used signs. If the active method of sign learning has proven useful for you, you should try systematically to learn to recognize and to produce signs that occur in your reading or which your teacher recommends.

On the following pages is a quiz over all the basic signs.

## FINAL QUIZ

1. ak      2. gâ      3. İKU      4. İb      5. İa

--	--	--	--	--

6. GİŞ      7. tum      8. lum      9. uk      10. AMAR

--	--	--	--	--

11. tu      12. da      13. at      14. el      15. ba

--	--	--	--	--

16. kam      17. mi      18. zi      19. ni      20. GUR

--	--	--	--	--

21. tc      22. SAİ.      23. e      24. İa      25. DİNGİR

--	--	--	--	--

26. MIN      27. İn      28. İi      29. İm      30. pa

--	--	--	--	--

31. İi      32. İam      33. İa      34. GAL      35. nu

--	--	--	--	--

36. Şİ      37. ur      38. mu      39. É      40. ar

--	--	--	--	--

41. İum      42. zu      43. İar      44. İam      45. İu

--	--	--	--	--

46. ul      47. du      48. an      49. ra      50. İi

--	--	--	--	--

51. me      52. U      53. up      54. na      55. as

--	--	--	--	--

56. pu    57. lu    58. qa    59. bí    60. šu

--	--	--	--	--

61. DUMU    62. a    63. ka    64. ai    65. ir

--	--	--	--	--

66. ru    67. tim    68. GÍN    69. UTU    70. ab

--	--	--	--	--

71. ša    72. GU<sub>4</sub>    73. i    74. ù    75. DIŠ

--	--	--	--	--

76. ma    77. nam    78. di    79. ša    80. uš

--	--	--	--	--

81. ki    82. aš    83. hi    84. ta    85. ku

--	--	--	--	--

86. SAG    87. it    88. LÚ    89. KÙ    90. en

--	--	--	--	--

91. ri    92. nim    93. MEŠ    94. aḫ    95. ik

--	--	--	--	--

96. um    97. il    98. wa    99. be    100. nin

--	--	--	--	--

101. ši    102. sa    103. eš    104. li    105. kum

--	--	--	--	--

106. še    107. ú    108. ši    109. iš    110. ti

--	--	--	--	--



## Alphabetic List of Values

Only values taught within this workbook are listed here. The number to the right of the sign indicates the page number of the workbook where the sign was first presented. Signs for numbers are grouped at the end of this list.

a	𐌆	129	DİŞ	𐌆	111	ik	𐌆𐌆	21
ab	𐌆𐌆	36	du	𐌆𐌆	55	IKU	𐌆𐌆	29
ad	𐌆𐌆	45	DURU	𐌆𐌆	44	il	𐌆𐌆	54
ag	𐌆𐌆	26	e	𐌆	67	im	𐌆𐌆	93
ab	𐌆𐌆	92	é	𐌆𐌆	72	in	𐌆𐌆	47
ak	𐌆𐌆	26	eb	𐌆𐌆	92	ip	𐌆𐌆	114
al	𐌆𐌆	65	el	𐌆𐌆	125	iq	𐌆𐌆	21
am	𐌆𐌆	49	em	𐌆𐌆	93	ir	𐌆𐌆	61
AMAR	𐌆𐌆	99	en	𐌆𐌆	27	is	𐌆	63
an	𐌆𐌆	5	er	𐌆𐌆	61	iş	𐌆	63
ap	𐌆𐌆	36	es	𐌆𐌆	110	iš	𐌆	58
aq	𐌆𐌆	26	ga	𐌆𐌆	71	it	𐌆𐌆	75
ar	𐌆𐌆	102	GAL	𐌆𐌆	78	iz	𐌆	63
as	𐌆𐌆	38	GEME	𐌆𐌆	117	ka	𐌆𐌆	6
aş	𐌆𐌆	38	gi	𐌆𐌆	23	kam	𐌆𐌆	94
aš	𐌆	2	GIN	𐌆𐌆	132	KAM	𐌆𐌆	94
at	𐌆𐌆	45	GIS	𐌆	63	kl	𐌆𐌆	108
az	𐌆𐌆	38	GU <sub>4</sub>	𐌆𐌆	64	ku	𐌆	115
ba	𐌆	3	GUR	𐌆𐌆	30	KU	𐌆𐌆	109
BABBAR	𐌆	84	ba	𐌆𐌆	131	kum	𐌆𐌆	51
be	𐌆	13	bl	𐌆	91	la	𐌆	7
bi	𐌆𐌆	59	bu	𐌆	19	lam	𐌆𐌆	98
bí	𐌆𐌆	50	i	𐌆	42	ll	𐌆𐌆	9
bu	𐌆	82	la	𐌆𐌆	43	lu	𐌆𐌆	116
da	𐌆𐌆	76	ib	𐌆𐌆	114	LÚ	𐌆𐌆	74
dam	𐌆𐌆	123	id	𐌆𐌆	75	lum	𐌆𐌆	126
di	𐌆𐌆	104	ib	𐌆𐌆	92	pa	𐌆	77
DINGIR	𐌆	5				pe	𐌆	112



MEŠ 𐎢𐎣	113	šu 𐎶	80
mi 𐎢𐎠	96	šum 𐎶𐎠	33
MIN 𐎠𐎢	127	ta 𐎠𐎢𐎠	41
mu 𐎢𐎠	10	tam 𐎠𐎢	84
na 𐎠𐎢	14	te 𐎠𐎢	83
nam 𐎠𐎢𐎠	20	ti 𐎠𐎢	15
ni 𐎠𐎢	60	tīm 𐎠𐎢𐎠	25
nīm 𐎠𐎢𐎠	97	tu 𐎠𐎢𐎠	8
nin 𐎠𐎢𐎠	122	tum 𐎠𐎢𐎠	56
nu 𐎠𐎢	16	u 𐎠	95
pa 𐎢𐎠	62	ū 𐎠𐎢𐎠	68
pi 𐎠𐎢	86	ū 𐎠𐎢𐎠	103
pu 𐎠𐎢	82	U <sub>4</sub> 𐎠𐎢	84
qa 𐎠𐎢	11	ub 𐎠𐎢𐎠	66
qá 𐎠𐎢𐎠	71	ud 𐎠𐎢	84
ra 𐎠𐎢	73	ug 𐎠𐎢𐎠	37
re 𐎠𐎢𐎠	24	uh 𐎠𐎢𐎠	92
ri 𐎠𐎢𐎠	24	uk 𐎠𐎢𐎠	37
ru 𐎠𐎢	12	ul 𐎠𐎢𐎠	100
sa 𐎠𐎢	28	um 𐎠𐎢𐎠	40
SAG 𐎠𐎢𐎠	32	up 𐎠𐎢	65
SAL 𐎠𐎢	117	uq 𐎠𐎢𐎠	37
si 𐎠𐎢	31	uz 𐎠𐎢𐎠	128
ša 𐎠𐎢	130	uš 𐎠𐎢𐎠	57
ši 𐎠𐎢𐎠	45	ut 𐎠𐎢	84
ša 𐎠𐎢	130	UTU 𐎠𐎢	84
šā 𐎠𐎢	90	wa 𐎠𐎢	86
šar 𐎠𐎢𐎠	48	wi 𐎠𐎢	86
še 𐎠𐎢	81	wu 𐎠𐎢	86
ši 𐎠𐎢	101	za 𐎠𐎢	130
		zi 𐎠𐎢	22
		zu 𐎠𐎢	4

Numbers

1 𐎠	111
𐎠	29
2 𐎠	127
10 <	95

## List of Signs

Only values taught within this workbook are listed; the number to the right indicates the page number of the workbook where the sign was first presented.

𐌰	aš, 1 2, 29	𐌲	šum 33	𐌸	o 67
𐌱	ba 3	𐌳	ab, ab 36	𐌹	ú 68
𐌲	zu 4	𐌴	uk, uq, ug 37	𐌺	qá, ga 71
𐌳	DINGIR,	𐌵	ab, az, aš 38	𐌻	é 72
𐌴	an 5	𐌶	um 40	𐌼	ra 73
𐌵	ka 6	𐌷	ta 41	𐌽	Lú 74
𐌶	la 7	𐌸	i 42	𐌾	it, id 75
𐌷	tu 8	𐌹	ia 43	𐌿	da 76
𐌸	li 9	𐌺	DUMU 44	𐍀	ma 77
𐌹	mu 10	𐌻	at, ad 45	𐍁	GAL 78
𐌺	qa 11	𐌼	gi 46	𐍂	ša 79
𐌻	ru 12	𐌽	in 47	𐍃	šu 80
𐌼	be 13	𐌾	šar 48	𐍄	še 81
𐌽	na 14	𐌿	am 49	𐍅	pu, bu 82
𐌾	ti 15	𐍀	bí 50	𐍆	te 83
𐌿	nu 16	𐍁	kum 51	𐍇	UTU, BABBAR,
𐍀	gu 19	𐍂	il 54	𐍈	U <sub>4</sub> , tam, ut,
𐍁	nam 20	𐍃	du 55	𐍉	ud 84
𐍂	ik, iq 21	𐍄	tum 56	𐍊	wa, wi, wu,
𐍃	zi 22	𐍅	uš 57	𐍋	pi 86
𐍄	gi 23	𐍆	iš 58	𐍌	ŠÀ 90
𐍅	ri, re 24	𐍇	bí 59	𐍍	hi 91
𐍆	tim 25	𐍈	ní 60	𐍎	ab, ib,
𐍇	ak, aq, aš 26	𐍉	ir, er 61	𐍏	eb, ub 92
𐍈	en 27	𐍊	pa 62	𐍐	im, em 93
𐍉	sa 28	𐍋	GIŠ,	𐍑	kam, KAM 94
𐍊	IKU 29	𐍌	iš, iz, iš 53	𐍒	U, I <sub>0</sub> 95
𐍋	GUR 30	𐍍	GU <sub>4</sub> 64	𐍓	mi 96
𐍌	si 31	𐍎	ai 65	𐍔	nim 97
𐍍	SAG 32	𐍏	up, ub 66	𐍕	lam 98
				𐍖	AMAR 99

u1	100
èi	101
ar	102
ù	103
di	104
ki	108
KÜ	109
eš	110
DIS,1	111
me	112
MEŠ	113
ib,ip	114
ku	115
lu	116
SAL, GEME	117
nin, N1N	122
dam, DAM	123
el	125
lum	126
MIN, 2	127
ur	128
a	129
ša, za	130
ba	131
GIN	132